

HOME NEWS

Mrs Thatcher firm on missiles as left fails to force debate

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mrs Thatcher yesterday confirmed the Commons her determination to back American proposals for strengthening Europe's nuclear defences.

Angry Labour left-wing MPs failed in their attempt to force an emergency debate before today's joint meeting in Brussels of Nato defence and foreign ministers.

The Prime Minister told the House that Mr Francis Pym, the Defence Secretary, would be making a statement tomorrow after the important decision had been taken in Brussels on the American request that they should be deployed in five European countries including Britain.

Mrs Thatcher, to loud Conservative cheers, said it would be a calamity for the whole alliance if a decision to modernize the nuclear weapons was not taken. The greatest danger to any country was weakness in defence, she said.

Urging an emergency debate, which was refused by the Speaker, Mr Frank Ailman, Labour MP for Salford, East, told the House that the Defence Secretary would be supporting proposals for nuclear missiles under British control should again be deployed on British soil. There must be no escalation without representation, Mr Ailman said.

Mr Robert Croyer, Labour MP for Kenilworth, leading the left-wing attack, said that the more of these missiles we had in

Big guns aim for 10,000 mobile votes

By Alan Hamilton
Heavy artillery was wheeled into the Hertfordshire South West constituency yesterday in a final push to decide the battle for second place in tomorrow's Conservative-dominated by-election.

Mrs Susan Reeves, the Labour candidate, was rounding off her campaign with a public meeting addressed by Mr Wedgwood Benn, while Mr David Clouston, the Liberal hopeful, was relying on the unusual combination of Mr David Steel and Mr Dick Taverne, QC, who was accompanying the Liberal Leader to warn any remaining wavering voters that Labour was no longer the party of Gaitskill.

Mr Richard Page, the Conservative candidate, is confident of keeping the seat in Government hands in the light of a 16,338 majority by his predecessor at the general election. But none the less he finished his campaign in style, with a visit from Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, bearing a message of cheer from the Prime Minister.

With no burning local issues to raise the political temperature in this suburban constituency 20 miles from the city, the campaign has been fought chiefly on the Government's economic measures.

Mr Page has campaigned on the necessity for unpleasant measures to steer the economy to calmer waters. He describes the local voters as economically liberal, and claims that most of them realize the need for cuts in public spending. But not even Mr Page expects to repeat the general election performance of Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth, a Labour spokesman on social security, who lost the seat because of ill health has caused the by-election.

After a shaky and unpromising start the Labour bandwagon has begun to roll in earnest under the capable direction of their candidate, Mrs Susan Reeves, who has emerged as an earnest and energetic campaigner. She claims to have detected strong opposition to cuts in the education budget, an area in which Hertfordshire has traditionally spent heavily.

Mrs Reeves, who has directed most of her energy against public expenditure cuts, says she finds it extraordinary, although comforting, that undecided voters are choosing between Tory and Labour rather than Tory and Liberal.

"The Tories seem quite unaware of the reality of what they are doing, that their policies are badly affecting ordinary people," she says.

The dark horse in the race is Mr Dane Clouston, of distant Viking ancestry, whose liberal campaign at one stage was exciting hopes of another Orpington revival. He is expected to cream off a large Tory vote which thought it was putting a less severe brand of Conservatism into power.

General election: G. H. Dodsworth (C) 33,112; A. J. Colman (Lab) 16,784; G. Cass (L) 9,808; E. Davies (Nat Front) 859; C. M. J. 16,338.

Challenge to the City's election practices

By Annabel Ferriman
The election practices of the City of London, the democratically elected wishes of the electorate and the City's own wishes to perpetuate an oligarchy, it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Donald Silk, a solicitor from the Barbican, in the City of London, is challenging the right of the City's Court of Aldermen to exclude him after he was duly elected for the Aldermanic ward on July 23 last. The aldermen refused to approve his election at a meeting in September.

Mr John Elvidge, counsel for Mr Silk, told Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and the Justice of the Peace, that the City's Court of Aldermen had been abolished elsewhere in England and Wales under the Local Government Act 1972, but had been allowed to remain in the City of London because, in the City, they were democratically elected. Any suggestion of a veto is repugnant to Parliament, he said.

Mr Elvidge said that when Mr Silk was presented to the meeting of 22 aldermen on September 18, no allegations were put to him, so he had no chance of answering any of the matters which have been raised.



Mr Donald Silk: 'Electors would be amazed'.

In an affidavit Mr Silk said that the aldermen were unable to frustrate the democratically expressed wishes of the electors. "In these days it does not seem right that I should be told that my wishes can be ignored in this way."

He claimed that the veto used was invalid under law because of the terms of the Representation of the People Act 1949, which applied to City elections in the same way as to any other.

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Too many tourists for worried Windsor

By John Young
Planning Reporter

British Rail and Madame Tussauds have appealed against a refusal by Windsor and Maidenhead District Council to approve a new permanent exhibition devoted to Royalty and Railways at Windsor and Maidenhead.

Plans for the exhibition include the restoration of the station building, which is listed grade two, together with the Brunel train shed and Queen Victoria's private waiting room, now used by a newspaper wholesaler.

"We see the scheme as a means of putting a listed building to good use and at the same time earning an income from the public," British Rail said yesterday.

The council's reason for rejecting the scheme, against the advice of its officers, is that it would bring extra visitors to the town, which for most of the year is already overcrowded with tourists.

"It would be quite wrong to suggest that the council is against tourism," Mr John Murray, a member of the planning committee, said yesterday. "But what you have to bear in mind is that Windsor already attracts between five and six million tourists a year."

Mr Jack Jarratt, the only Labour member of the council, said that it was sad to have to reject what appeared to be an interesting and desirable project.

"Many people took the view that the likely effect on tourism should not be a planning consideration. But if you flood a place with too many bodies then in my view that is bad planning," he added.

British Rail claim that there is considerable local support for the proposed exhibition, and that it has been welcomed by residents' groups, the town board and the chamber of commerce.

A public consultation exercise conducted by the council also indicated a majority in favour.

Mr Jarratt, however, maintains that most residents' groups are unrepresentative of public opinion.

MPs to study council house sales

By Our Political Correspondent

The first of the new departmental select committees of the Commons to decide on a specific subject for investigation is the Environmental Committee, whose chairman is Mr Bruce Douglas-Mann, a solicitor and Labour MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden.

It will examine the financial and social implications of the sale of council houses.

Yesterday, through their clerk, Mr Andrew Hubner, the committee members said that they would welcome written evidence and indication of a wish to give oral evidence from people who have published works of this subject.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Select Committee yesterday elected Mr Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud, as chairman. Their first task will be to examine the working of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before choosing a subject for special investigation.

Meanwhile the Social Services Select Committee is in a predicament by failing to elect a chairman. Mr David Ennals, former Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, who has had much experience in chairing similar committees, received four votes each. The committee is to meet again to settle the issue.

Plaid Cymru are complaining that neither of the two MPs has been given a place on the Welsh Affairs Committee.

Mr Hume invited to No 10

The Prime Minister has invited Mr John Hume, the leader of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party, for talks at Downing Street.

The future of the Government's initiative on Northern Ireland and its proposed political conference lie largely with Mr Hume, and it is expected that Mrs Thatcher will try hard to tempt him to attend the conference.

The SDLP has delayed the talks by refusing to take part because it has been told it will be ruled out of order if it attempts to discuss the so-called Irish dimension.

The party's attitude prompted Mr Gerard Fitt, MP for Belfast, West, to quit as is leader recently.

No date is understood to have been fixed for the meeting, but in view of the commitments of both Mrs Thatcher and Hume it is believed they will not meet until after Christmas.

Union chiefs confident on Robinson case

Leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are confident that they will comfortably survive a campaign to unseat them because of their handling of the case of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed convenor at BL's Longbridge plant in Birmingham.

The union's branch at Northfield, Birmingham, has passed a resolution calling for the removal from office of the union's executive because it decided to hold an internal inquiry into whether Mr Robinson was fairly dismissed rather than call an official strike in his defence.

The far-left Charter group in the engineering union has started a campaign for more branches to follow suit. The campaign leaders say that more than 50 branches have already done so.

Under the union's rules a

Coal industry on course again, Sir Derek says

Output from Britain's collieries during the week in which the miners voted to accept the National Coal Board's 20 per cent wage offer was the highest since March last year.

Last week's figures are likely to be even better, Sir Derek Ezra, the board chairman, said when he visited Hucknall, yesterday.

Deep-mined output was one million tonnes higher than in the same period last year and the industry was back on course to achieve its output objective for the year, Sir Derek said.

In the 33 weeks since the beginning of the financial year the board had sold 6,200,000 tonnes more coal than last year, the biggest increase being in its power station business.

"Because of the amicable settlement of our wage negotiations the industry can now go on too to build from a secure base. That is the immediate benefit from last week's ballot result," Sir Derek said.

Mr Haughey names new Cabinet

Continued from page 1

Wished to clear the name of any sympathy with them after the experience of being accused of conspiring to import arms for their benefit, he could have done so at any moment since the trial ended."

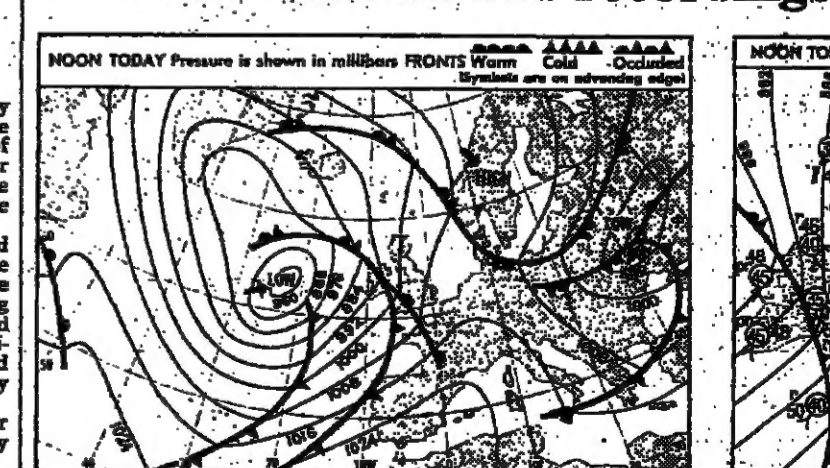
A man with that background could not by any stretch of the imagination offer reassurance to Northern Protestants looking southwards. Dr Fitzgerald said he could not endorse the candidature of a man who would represent a barrier to unity by agreement.

Mr Frank Cluskey the Labour Party leader, said Mr Haughey was unfit for office.

The new Cabinet is:

Energy: Mr George Colley; Foreign Affairs: Mr Brian Lenihan; Defence: Mr Padraig Faulkner; Industry and Commerce: Mr Desmond O'Malley; Justice: Mr George Colley; Finance: Mr Michael O'Kennedy; Environment: Mr Sylvester Barrett; Labour Relations: Mr Gene Flanagan; Health: Mr John Patrick Wilson; Agriculture: Mr Ray MacSharry; Irish Speaking Affairs: Mr Michael Woods; Fisheries: Mr Patrick Power; Posts and Telecommunications: Mr Albert Reynolds.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Today

Sun rises: 7.57 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm

Moon rises: 12.35 pm Moon sets: 12.35 pm

New Moon: December 19.

Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am

High Water: London Bridge 7.13 am, 5.20 pm (18.9t); 7.58 pm, 5.30 am (19.2t); Avonmouth 12.17 am, 10.10 am (18.1t); Dover 4.40 am, 5.56 pm (18.2t); Hull 12.3 pm, 5.7 pm (18.6t); Liverpool 5.3 am, 6.2 pm (23.5t); 5.22 pm, 7.30 pm (24t).

breaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SW, strong to gale; max temp 8°C (46°F).

SW England, Wales: Cloudy, rain becoming widespread; wind SW, strong to gale, increasing to storm on coast and hills; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Lake District, Lake of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Becoming mostly cloudy, rain at times, some heavy; wind SW, strong to gale; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Mostly dry and bright at first, becoming cloudy with rain at times; wind SW, fresh, increasing to storm; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Argyll, NW Scotland: Mostly cloudy, rain at times, perhaps heavy in places; wind SW, fresh or strong, perhaps gale; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or showers; wind S or SW, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 5 am to 6 pm, 8°C (46°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 4°C (40°F); sunrise 6 pm, 7.22 pm; sunset 2.40 to 6 pm, 7.22 pm; rain, 2.40 to 6 pm, 1,000.5 millibars, rain, 2.40 to 6 pm, 1,000.5 millibars, rain, 2.40 to 6 pm, 1,000.5 millibars.

Overseas selling prices

Aluminium: \$1.50, Austria: Sch 20; Bahrain: \$0.60; Belgium: \$1.30; Canada: \$1.20; Denmark: \$1.20; Finland: \$1.20; France: \$1.20; Germany: \$1.20; Greece: \$1.20; Hong Kong: \$1.20; India: \$1.20; Italy: \$1.20; Japan: \$1.20; Korea: \$1.20; Malaysia: \$1.20; Mexico: \$1.20; Netherlands: \$1.20; New Zealand: \$1.20; Norway: \$1.20; Portugal: \$1.20; Saudi Arabia: \$1.20; Singapore: \$1.20; South Africa: \$1.20; Sweden: \$1.20; Switzerland: \$1.20; Taiwan: \$1.20; Thailand: \$1.20; Turkey: \$1.20; USA: \$1.20; USSR: \$1.20; Venezuela: \$1.20; Yugoslavia: \$1.20.

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British traditions 'best to protect human rights'

The President of the European Commission of Human Rights yesterday expressed scepticism about incorporating the convention on human rights into British law.

Professor James Fawcett told students of the police staff college at Bramshill in Hampshire that it was the best way of achieving the result we want.

He said that last year there were 2,500 applications to the commission, which were referred to 240 registered members. No more than 100 were treated as substantive.

Lodd Deeming, the Master of the Rolls, said on Monday that he was beginning to think that the human rights convention, which contained more fundamental freedoms, should be incorporated into British law because of "the tendency now to adapt for judges to forget their duties."

He told about 500 lawyers at the inaugural Lord Fletcher Lecture in London: "These judges are not strong enough, some of them. In the old days we could protect our fundamental freedoms. But we do not seem inclined to do it now."

مركزاً من رصاص

What have the next 3½ years got to offer you?

Action
Adventure
Assault Ship
AS 12 Missiles
Athletics
Ambition
Authority
Atlantic
Arctic
Antarctic
Anti-submarine Cruisers
Bridge Watchkeeping
Badminton
Boxing
Bunks
Boarding Parties
Challenge
Communications
Comradeship
Clubs
Colours
Computers
Commission
Cricket
Cross Country
Confidence
Dartmouth
Destroyers
Discipline
Diving
Duty-free Drinks
Enjoyment
Etiquette
Exocet
Experience
Expertise
Fishery Protection
Fencing
Fun
Foreign Visits
Friends
Frigates

Flags
Freedom
Flexibility
Fast Patrol Boats
Free Time
Far East
Fitness
Good Food
Good Pay
Golf
Geminis
Guns
High Seas
Helicopter Carriers
Hovercraft
Hockey
Ice Patrol Ship
Ikara
Indian Ocean
Job Satisfaction
Judo
Know-how
Karate
Leadership
Maturity
Missiles
Mountaineering
Mine Clearing
Management
Experience
Minehunters
Medical Care
Mediterranean
Nuclear Submarines
Navigation
Nato
Northern Lights
Overseas Travel
Off-shore Patrol Craft

Officer of the Day
Olympus Engines
Opportunity
Ops Room
Outdoor Life
Patriotism
Patrol Submarine
Ports
Promotion
Prospects
Professionalism
Purpose
Pride
Prestige
Pressure
Pacific Ocean
Physical Training
Qualifications
Quality of Life
Radar
Rank
Responsibility
Risk
Rugby
Respect
Sailing
Seamanship
Satisfaction
Six Weeks' Leave
Skiing
Sea
Shooting
Sonar
Swimming
Sea Cat
Spithead Pheasant
Sea Wolf
Sea Slug
Sea Dart
Sub-Specialisation
Short Career
Soccer

Self Respect
Security
Signals
Ships
Technology
Tax-free Gratuity
Teamwork
Tennis
Training
Tradition
Tropics
Type 21s

Type 22s
Uniform
Variety
White Ensign
Water Polo
Warfare Training
Wardrooms
Woolly Pullies
West Indies
Wrens
The World

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To: Captain D. Pentreath RN, Officer Entry Section (9XT1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Please send me more information about the new 3½-year Short Career Commission in the Royal Navy. (Minimum qualifications: age 17-26 on entry; 5 Grade C 'O' levels (or equivalent) including English, Language, Maths and a Physics-based Science.) If you are a graduate so much the better.

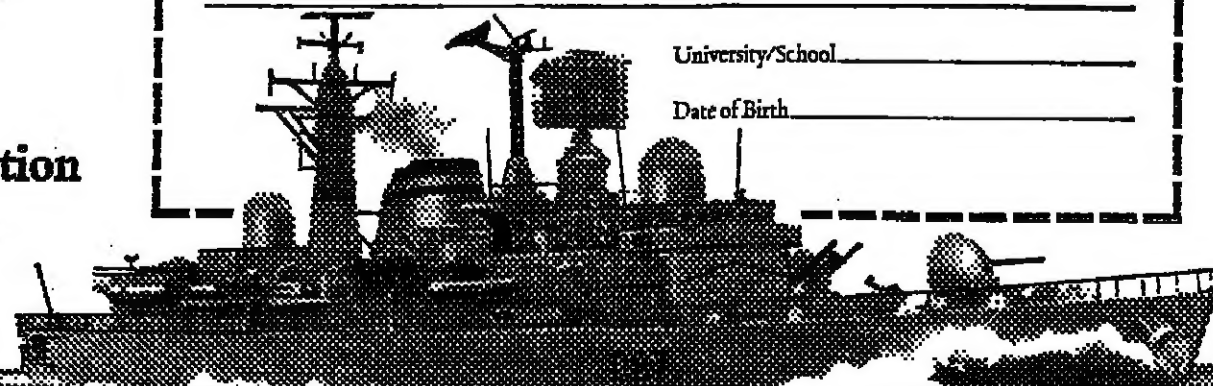
This commission does not apply to Flying Duties, Engineers or Supply and Secretariat Officers.

Name _____ (Enquiries from UK residents only)

Address _____

University/School _____

Date of Birth _____



The Navy's new Short Career Commission.

HOME NEWS

Health service bureaucracy will be cut and jobs will vanish in simplified structure

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The complex management structure that has bedeviled health service decision-making since the reorganization of the National Health Service in 1974 is to be untangled over the next two years.

A government consultative document, published yesterday under the title *Patients First*, is aimed at reducing bureaucracy and concentrating responsibility at district and hospital level.

Most of the 90 area health authorities will disappear to be replaced by between 150 and 180 district authorities. The structure will be simplified and duplication of functions at two or three levels will go. Some jobs will be lost. The Government estimates that the changes will save 10 per cent, about £30m, of administrative and management costs.

Some office premises will be sold and the money put to patient care. The future of Community Health Councils, the public's "watch-dog", is put in question.

Doctors are likely strongly to resist a proposal that consultant appointments should be the responsibility of the new district authorities.

Discussion on the document must be completed by April 30, after which the 14 regional authorities will have to introduce the changes over about two years.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday: "The service needs effective local leadership.

That is what we are determined to give it."

The proposals were aimed at "the top hamper of management". There was duplication of management of domestic, catering and porter services. That must all be brought to a single level, the hospital.

It was impossible, he said, to say how many jobs would disappear. There was much natural wastage. There would be no automatic transfer of functions to the new authorities. Staff concerned would be consulted but the idea of a national staff commission had been rejected.

The Government says that maximum delegation of responsibility to those in the hospital and community services within policies determined by the district authorities, matched by a strengthening of hospital management, is the most important change needed.

Each big hospital or group, and associated community services, should have a senior administrator and nurse, who would take responsibility in conjunction with medical staff. Wherever possible the two should be directly responsible to the district administrator and nursing officer, and hospital staff in non-clinical supportive services should be accountable to the hospital administrator.

About 38 single district areas already existed and would not be changed. All multidistrict areas should be reconstructed. Most new districts would have

a population of 200,000 or more. A few might be below 150,000 and a very few above 500,000. Regional authorities would consult universities about medical schools' needs.

The membership of the new authorities would be reduced from 33 for the biggest area health authority to about 20, and the chairman, appointed by the Secretary of State.

There would be four local authority members. The practice of having a consultant, a general practitioner, a nurse, a university nominee and a trade unionist as members would continue, but there would not be formally elected staff representatives on the authorities.

Present arrangements for the administration of the family practitioner services should be retained, but one Family Practitioner Committee might cover more than one district.

The document says that in future health authorities will be less remote from local services and therefore the need for separate "consumer representation" as provided by Community Health Councils was less clear. Next year the councils would cost £4m. That money, Mr Jenkin suggested, might be better spent on patient care.

After the proposed changes come into effect, the regional health authorities will come under scrutiny.

Patients First: Consultative paper on the structure and management of the National Health Service in England and Wales (Stationery Office, £1).

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Labour fight for consumer bodies

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Labour Party spokesmen found *Patients First* a remarkable form of "consultation document".

"In many areas it sets out firm proposals which are not open to argument or discussion," Mr Stanley Orme, MP for Salford, who was Minister for Social Security in the Labour Government, declared.

"Its main interest lies in the attempt to put right the disastrous decisions on the reorganization of the health service in 1974."

The Opposition will insist on an early Commons debate on the document and on the report of the Royal Commission on the Health Service.

"We think the paragraph on the community health councils sounds the death knell for these bodies," Mr Orme said.

"It is crucial that there should be some body representing the views of consumers standing between the Government and the administration of the health service, and we shall fight for the retention of these councils."

He criticized the sections on industrial democracy. While praising the Labour did not have much success when it tried to introduce that change, Mr Orme said that the unions were now showing closer interest, and it was not the time to abandon the representation of local authorities on the district health authorities was a retrograde step. Those councils represented essential local democracy.

Mr Roland Moyle, MP for Lewisham, East, former Minister of State for Health, said: "We fundamentally disagree with the Government's decision not to hold an inquiry into the health service, where there are massive problems."

"There are four health authorities responsible for London, with 12 teaching hospitals, 13 postgraduate hospitals, an inner-city zone which is a

New director possesses a true civil servant's tact

Polytechnic head hopes to build bridges

By Ian Bradley
The new director of the Polytechnic of North London is to be Dr David MacDowall. He will succeed Mr Terence Miller, the present director, on January 1.

Dr MacDowall, who is 49 and at present assistant director of the polytechnic with responsibility for academic planning, took the unusual step yesterday of holding a press conference to explain his thoughts about the job.

Under Mr Miller the polytechnic achieved considerable notoriety as a battleground of left and right and has never been out of the headlines for long.

Dr MacDowall seems likely to steer the polytechnic into calmer waters and away from the glare of publicity. He confessed: "I probably produce as quotable quotes as Mr Miller," and described himself, in contrast to his predecessor, as "basically a pragmatist."

Mr Miller's comment in *The Times* on November 22 that his successor would need "a low cunning rather than a good brain" was a true civil servant's



Dr David MacDowall: "Basically a pragmatist."

tact developed over 13 years at the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee. Dr MacDowall said: "One needs administrative capacity and care and sensitivity about the needs of different people, including students. I believe in civilized negotiations."

Dr MacDowall feels that the polytechnic has changed since it got its image of a strife-torn establishment. He said: "I hope the days of conflict are receding. It is now a very serious institution and I hope to see the building bridges with staff and students to strengthen the end for which the place exists, the education of students."

He hopes to encourage the development of evening degree courses, especially in humanities and social studies.

Although he was reluctant to say how he would deal with the student occupations that have become something of a regular feature of life at the Polytechnic, Dr MacDowall seems unlikely to employ the military tactics of his predecessor.

His main academic interest is in the contribution of numerics to the reconstruction of ancient history, although perhaps the students' union should take note that he has a particular interest in the successors to Alexander the Great in Asia.

Those wily ancient might yet prove to have a trick or two up their sleeves which could be used in dealing with rebellious students.



Margaret Kelly, aged 15, an Irish itinerant girl with no acting experience, who plays a leading part in "Kate", tomorrow's Play for Today on BBC 1. The documentary-drama shows the plight of tinkers in Ireland. Johnny, the boy, is a member of Margaret Kelly's family.

Killer 'only fined' for earlier attack

Mr Justice Watkins, VC, said at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday that he was flabbergasted that a man convicted of attacking a girl was only fined. Within a month the man attacked another teenage girl and killed her.

"You are a dangerous man," the judge said to Stephen Latham, aged 17, a labourer, when he sentenced him to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure for murdering Helen Power, aged 17, a typist.

The judge said he was surprised that Latham was tried by magistrates for the earlier attack on a woman in the street at Brecon. He was fined £150 for that offence.

Latham, of The Waton, Brecon, had denied murder, and his plea of guilty to manslaughter had been rejected by the prosecution because of the extent of his victim's injuries.

He had shown no mercy to Miss Power as she lay helpless on the floor of a derelict cottage near her home at Brecon, the court was told. After battering her and squeezing her throat, he stamped on her, compressing one lung and damaging her pancreas. Police had found his fingerprints on the body.

Pledge to kill assisted school places

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

London University, by far the largest in Britain, is in "a disastrous plight" as a result of Government spending cuts and its policy on overseas student fees, Lord Annan, the vice-chancellor, says.

In a letter to Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC), Lord Annan says that three of the university's schools "will almost certainly have to close within two or three years", unless the Government is prepared to make special provision for them.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine took 74 per cent of its full-time students from overseas, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School 47 per cent, and the School of Oriental and African Studies 35 per cent.

"There is no conceivable way in which by the rest of the university tightening its belt these three institutions can be saved," Lord Annan says. This was not an attempt at blackmail. It was simply a recognition that governments

University faces ruin, Lord Annan says

over many years had encouraged the university to foster what were always known as "uneconomic institutions."

Most of the institutes in the British Postgraduate Medical Federation would also be unable to continue to operate. Forty-five per cent of the federation's students were from overseas.

The average proportion of full-time overseas students for the whole of London University was 12 per cent, the national average was 13 per cent. According to the UGC, £30m of the university's annual income was at risk as a result of the Government's plan to introduce full fees for overseas students.

London University could not "save" the specialized institutions most at risk by rejigging its finances, because so many of its schools, large and small, believed that they would soon be on the verge of bankruptcy.

Nationwide use of new exam urge

By Our Education Correspondent

A record of a pupil's performance in English and mathematics proficiency tests should be included on all certificates awarded for the proposed Certificate of Extended Education (CEE) examination, a committee set up by the Government recommends.

The committee, of which Professor Kevin Keohane, rector of the Royal Holloway Institute of Higher Education was chairman, recommends that the examination, which is primarily designed for pupils aged 17 of average ability, should be officially introduced on a national basis.

CEE pilot schemes have been operating since 1972. Last year nearly 21,000 candidates from 921 schools and colleges entered for CEE examinations. Most of them were 17. Two thirds took only one subject. English and mathematics were the most popular.

The CEE is primarily intended for pupils who have achieved grades 2-4 in CSE examinations at the end of the fifth year and who want to stay at school for another year. The report suggests that many of those pupils were now taking or retaking O levels or CSEs

which were in general inappropriate to the age.

It says that if the new examination is to satisfy needs of young people, it would be going straight to employment it must be capable of ensuring basic communication and numerical skills, providing some element vocational preparation, assisting the development personal and social skills relevant to work, and of offering certification which gives access to employers on the points.

Proposals for a Certificate of Extended Education (Comm. 7755, Stationery Office, £2.25).

Weapons stored in Front's headquarters, inquiry told

By Penny Symon
Offensive weapons were stored in what purported to be the National Front's headquarters in Hackney, London, a planning inquiry was told yesterday.

Mr Simon Read said that he was strongly opposed to the National Front, but joined it last year to discover its internal workings in the hope of gaining knowledge to use against it.

Hackney Council is attempting to stop the National Front, NF Properties Ltd, Leachhouse Ltd, and Benjuya Ltd from using 73 Great Eastern Street as the offices and administrative headquarters of a political party and as a publication and distribution centre.

Mr Read said there was no doubt that the building was the national headquarters of the National Front. He was on night-guard duty at the premises about eight times between last December and June, and he had also visited the premises during the day. Weapons were stacked in a corner of the ground floor.

"They included wooden clubs and iron bars", he said.

"On one occasion there was a wooden pickaxe handle with something violently antisemitic written on it."

A general office contained a filing cabinet with membership records and pigeon holes with application forms and membership cards.

The building was used as a sanctuary by a notorious group of young local thugs, who had spoken to him of "having a go" at Asians, Mr Read said.

A couple of National Front activists came in to collect leaflets and they had red sweatshirts with "ironed on" white letters saying (Kill niggers).

Mr Abdul Noor, a member of the Bangladesh Youth Movement for Equal Rights, alleged that people from his community had been attacked while walking past 73 Great Eastern Street.

He had been beaten up and left unconscious by four white youths wearing National Front badges.

The inquiry, before Mr Leo Kealey, principal planning inspector in the Department of the Environment, was adjourned until January 7.

Miners returned to work yesterday at Kinsley drift mine, Potters Bar, West of London, where two men were killed on Monday by a runaway underground train. A good turnout was reported.

The wreckage was still being examined by health and safety experts from the coal board by union officials. Inquest on the two dead is expected to be opened Wakefield today.

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Man accused of four murders

Terence Joseph Pinfield, a 47-year-old decorator, appeared Bow Street Magistrates' Court today charged with four murders. Mr Pinfield, of Vinton Road, Ilford, Lond was remanded in custody on December 20.

He was accused of murder in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, and 1978. He was also charged with the murder of a woman in 1975.

Man allowed dogs to die in transit

Alfred Wood, an animal exporter, was fined £350 by magistrates at Crawley, Sussex, yesterday after the Bench had been told that he allowed three Alsatian dogs to die during a journey to Garwick airport.

The prosecution said two of the dogs appeared to have suffocated in their crates, which were packed into the back of Mr Wood's van. The other strangled itself after forcing its head through the wire mesh front of a crate in an attempt to escape.

Mr Richard Stafford, for the prosecution, said the incident happened on a hot day last June when Mr Wood was taking 16 dogs to the airport to be flown to Nigeria. A veterinary surgeon pronounced them medically fit to travel before they set off from Stoke at 3.30 pm. They arrived at Garwick airport

four and a half hours later.

Mr Wood, aged 42, of Wheatash Road, Addlestone, Surrey, is a partner in All Pets Travel Service Ltd, of Bedford Hill, Balham, London. He admitted two charges of allowing animals to suffer from exposure to "undue fluctuations in temperature, humidity and air pressure."

He also admitted one charge of failing to safeguard an animal from risk of injury. He denied two similar charges alleged to have taken place two weeks later.

Mr Wood told the magistrates: "I did make a mistake in misjudging the weather conditions on this occasion. I have no other excuses."

Mr Stafford said that on June 26 Mr Wood took another cargo of Alsatian dogs to Garwick, again for export to Nigeria. The dogs were to be flown by I. Airlines, which later changed name to British Cargo Airline.

Mr Graham Jones, a veterinarian consultant to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said the crates he was using on that occasion were up to IATA standards. It had been rejected earlier another airline which was member of the association.

Mr Jones added: "They had proper ventilation and I lacked sound construction. Made inquiries about these crates because I was horrified when I saw them."

Mr Wood told the court the crates had been provided by IAS Airlines, who had a guilty before. He was not guilty on four counts and charged was dismissed. He ordered to pay £100 costs.

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HOME NEWS

Council plans to offer £50 rewards to help curb vandalism

An Arthur Osman Birmingham housing department has proposed that £50 rewards should be paid for information leading to the conviction of vandals who damage housing estates.

The housing committee is expected to approve the move tomorrow with the reward being paid from the housing revenue account.

A senior official said yesterday that because of the incidence and loss of amenities, the committee would be happy to pay out if that did reduce vandalism. "We do not know of any other authority that has taken this step," Birmingham has nearly 100 council homes, of which a quarter are flats and maisonettes.

Mr Richard Westlake, the housing officer, said the vandalism on estates, particularly littering, was a major problem. He said the committee was considering the possibility of offering rewards to anyone who provides information leading to the conviction of vandals.

As a general rule the rewards on the estates are

reluctant to identify and report instances of vandalism. Consequently, it is rarely possible to deal with the culprits.

"Costs of vandalism are difficult to assess, particularly when determining whether damage has been caused by deliberate acts of vandalism," he added.

In spite of this difficulty, it is estimated that the annual cost would not be less than £100,000 and could be as high as £200,000. That was not an inconsiderable sum on the revenue account.

The matter was not confined to Birmingham but he thought rewards might help.

A senior official explained: "It is often difficult to say that damage is malicious. But we hope the rewards will have a deterrent effect at the very least if potential vandals know there is a greater chance of being reported."

It is difficult to say why people are reluctant to report cases, but it could be that they think no one cares. Our rewards scheme might just show them that the problem is seen as a serious one.

Boy opens a lake to aid industry and amenities

From John Chatter, Falsone, Northumberland

The first section of the 2,000-acre Kielder reservoir began to fill yesterday after a schoolboy aged nine initiated the closing of the gate on a secondary dam now holding back the head waters of the river North Tyne.

With the closing of the Bakethin dam, near the north-west end of what will be one of Europe's largest man-made lakes, slightly larger in surface area than Ulswater, about 170 acres will be inundated during the next three or four days.

The dam, 41ft high, will ensure that this section, covering flat land, will always be kept at about the same level irrespective of "draw down" during drought periods from the main lake, which is due to fill next winter.

The Bakethin subsidiary reservoir is being created as an "amenity lake", its southern bank being designated as a nature reserve. Children from the Kielder First School, including Jonathan Hall, who had earlier operated the gate-closing mechanism, helped yesterday to begin to stock the lake with 5,000 young brown trout in readiness for controlled angling next summer.

The main contractors, Wimpey Construction Ltd, presented a cup to the school to be given annually to the pupil who makes the best contribution to wild life knowledge and conservation in the area.

Despite controversy, the £129m scheme has proceeded according to programme. Work



Jonathan Hall watching the water flow after he closed the Bakethin dam yesterday.

on the main dam, which will be three quarters of a mile long, was ahead of schedule when the weather stopped operations in the autumn.

The scheme, which includes 24 miles of additional pipeline to carry water as far south as the Teeside industrial area and parts of North Yorkshire, was devised as a single answer to the North-east region's estimated requirement of 350

million gallons a day by the year 2000, rising to 400 million, more than 100 million gallons a day above present consumption.

Kielder Water will be able to store 41,350 million gallons.

Some of the forward calculations were made on the estimated requirements of the steel industry before its current troubles arose.

Mr Frank Ridley, chief executive designate of the North-

umbrian Water Authority, said yesterday that steel's demands had obviously slowed down, but the case for the Kielder scheme remained unaltered, particularly since it seemed that BSC intended to continue the development of new projects on Teeside.

He thought that the water from the Kielder scheme would be needed by 1981, when it is due to flow.

No feathers fly in assault on batteries

By Hugh Clayton, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Spike Milligan, the comedian, opened a new animal welfare campaign yesterday amid the loud clucking of five caged chickens. "Be quiet", he said, "we are fighting for you."

He and other opponents of factory farms gathered in a public house in Whitehall before unveiling a petition with almost 200,000 signatures across the road to 10 Downing Street. The petition called for a run-down, leading to a ban in 10 years, of battery production of chickens.

Asked if he would approve of illegal action to "liberate" battery chickens, Mr Milligan replied: "Yes, I would; I might even join in. It is the eroding factor in the quality of our own morality that is the worst part of it," he went on.

Battery farming of chickens in controlled conditions is one of the most widespread forms of livestock husbandry. Mr Peter Roberts, general secretary of Compassion in World Farming, said that two chickens in a battery unit were housed on floorspace the size of a long-playing record's sleeve.

Miss Bridget Brophy, the author, who supported the petition, said: "Intensive farming is simply a synonym for a concentration camp."

Mr Neville Wallace, director-general of the British Poultry Federation, which represents poultry farmers and packers, said later that members were always ready to consider better methods.

Journalist again loses plea over dismissal

Mr C. Gordon Tether, who was dismissed by *The Financial Times* after a dispute over editorial control of his daily "Lombard" column, yesterday lost the latest round of his claim for unfair dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal in London ruled against Mr Tether's complaint that rejection of his claim by an industrial tribunal was perverse.

Mr Justice Slynn, the president, said that although the scope of the column had increased over the years it did not follow that Mr Tether had an implied right to publish articles as he chose, written in the way he chose.

Mr Tether, aged 65, of Lavford Hill Road, Worplesdon, Surrey, had worked for the paper for 45 years before being dismissed in 1976. He wrote the "Lombard" column for 21 years.

The tribunal yesterday accepted the sincerity of Mr Tether's views about his independence, which had established his reputation as a journalist.

The tribunal yesterday also ruled against Mr Tether's contention that his dismissal was unfair because he was not given a warning. He was refused leave to refer the case to the Court of Appeal but can still apply to that court for leave.

Mr Tether was in the United States yesterday, but after being told of the appeal tribunal's decision he said he was "very disappointed". He had not decided whether to pursue the case further.

We are considering further tax reliefs, Mr St John-Stevs says

More arts sponsors sought

Kenneth Goeling is Reporter

Moves to encourage private sponsorship of the arts, including possible further tax reliefs, being planned by Mr St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Arts.

With the help of Lord Odman a campaign is to be mounted in the new year existing to individuals and companies how best they can implement public support for arts.

Various meetings are being held, Mr St John-Stevens said, "and a committee will consider events of one kind and other."

"We are working very closely with the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts in thinking of various things, a publication showing the extent of tax concessions. We are looking at what further tax concessions might be desirable."

Mr St John-Stevens was explaining the setting up of the Office of Arts and Libraries as a separate entity with, he said, consequent benefits to the arts. They now had this as well as a place in the Cabinet.

On the Arts Council grant, which should be made known next month, he said he did not want to "move its money out a bit".

The interests of the two departmental museums, the Victoria and Albert and the Science Museum, had been protected. Mr St John-Stevens disclosed the first time that there was longer any desire by the V & A to become an independent trust museum. "There are advantages in the Civil Service connection and we do not want to lose these museums as the greatest jewel in our crown."

Two measures that are being considered are the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Heritage Fund, are close to his art and as leader of the use, in charge of the legis-

lative programme, he has been able to influence their progress. The National Heritage Fund Bill, back from the Lords, goes into committee on Tuesday.

"I consider that a very major achievement," he said, "and one that alone will make this tenure of mine well worth while. I felt I would have to move very swiftly to get it into the legislative programme. The fund was roughly £15m, and £5m a year thereafter."

"What made it acceptable to the arts world is that we have kept in the 'in lieu' procedure, which is being administered jointly by my office and the Environment Department."

Independent trustees were still to be appointed and he hoped to announce their names in February.

Two other aspects of the arts that have concerned him have been film and the arts in education.

He said he was working very closely with British Film Institute officials and Mr John Wood, Secretary of State for Trade, about further financing of the institute. "There will be positive proposals about that and I am anxious to promote closer cooperation between television and cinema, which will be of benefit to both."

The schools continued the audience of the future, and not enough was being done in the field of art education. He was working on that with Mr Mark Carlisle, the Secretary of State for Education.

Mr St John-Stevens, who emphasized that he was still completely in charge of the department, having recently asked Mr Neil Macfarlane, a junior minister in the Department of Education and Science, to assist him, said that there were still difficulties outstanding.

On the establishment of a gallery adjoining the Tate to house the Turner collection, he said he hoped, after a substantial offer from a foundation, to make an announcement in the new year.

V licence strike urged by Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru today urged television viewers in Wales to withhold their licence fees and tell the Government to get up a Welsh language television service on the proposed fourth channel.

The licence campaign was launched at Cardiff by the party's spokesman on broadcasting, Mr Dafydd Thomas, the MP for Merioneth.

He claimed there was no realistic alternative to a full Welsh language service, because it will allow the growth of a Welsh television service in Wales, with a whole range of programmes, including peak-time viewing.

Secondly, it will remove the main existing television channels, and win back the tens of thousands of Welsh-speaking viewers who had left Welsh programmes by switching to channels in English.

Plaid Cymru has set up a television fund to hold licence fees in trust until a "proper television service" is established.

Fifth of those in jail are poor readers

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A report for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders says today that 21 per cent of the prison population in 1977-78 had a reading age of less than 10 years.

The report, by Mr Harold Marks, a former government inspector of adult and further education, says that a survey by Devon probation officers found that 327 out of 1,500 people under their supervision had literacy problems.

Mr Marks, who is retired, included in his former duties inspection of prisons, borstals and detention centres. In the report he gives details of eight educational schemes in which offenders are given tuition in the community and lists ten more.

He concludes that offenders should be able to combine outside prison tuition they have received inside.

Education for Offenders: provision and needs, free from NACRO, 169 Clapham Road, London SW9 0PU.

500,000 appeal to expand villages for disabled

A Staff Reporter

An appeal for £500,000 to provide more jobs and homes for two special villages for the disabled was launched in London yesterday by Lord

Rich, chairman of the Village Centres Association. The association runs the two villages, Enham village centre, Hampshire, and Papworth village settlement, Cambridge, which were founded 50 years ago.

They provide jobs for 540 disabled people and homes for 100 and their families and an appeal is intended to draw a further 110 people into the villages.

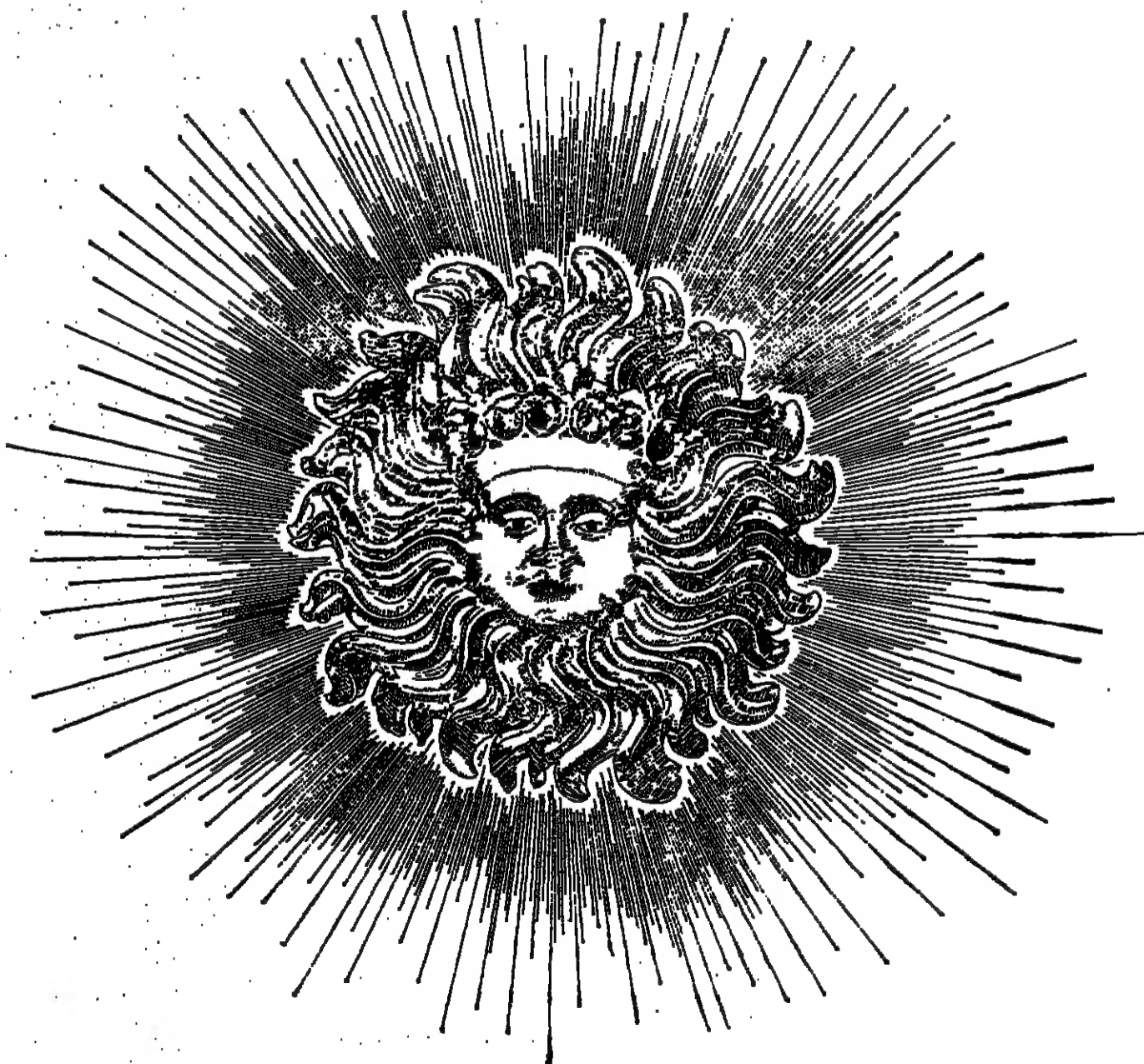
One reason for the appeal

is that because of government public spending cuts voluntary organizations will have to play a greater part in the expansion of services for the disabled.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, promised her support for the appeal.

She said: "Job opportunities for disabled people are precious. I am particularly pleased to see that much of the money will be used to develop and extend workshop provision in both villages."

The appeal has also received the support of the Confederation of British Industry and the Trades Union Congress.



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processed easily into liquid fuels which suit today's technology. Mobil has developed a way to convert coal-derived methanol into high-octane petrol; at present it's expensive, but we're trying to bring costs down.

Mobil is working on solar, too — with a new way to make silicon cells which convert sunlight directly into electricity. It's still a long-term project, but it looks like a pretty hot prospect for the future.

These efforts are part of a worldwide quest for viable alternative energy sources, including wind, tidal and wave power, biomass, geothermal, hydrogen and fusion.

They're all still a long way from making a large-scale contribution — but hopes for

the future rest on today's research.

Why should an oil company be developing alternatives to oil? Because we have unique expertise in energy; we're used to investing vast financial resources; and we're motivated: we, too, want to outlast the era of abundant oil.

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WEST EUROPE

Sharp reminder to Nato members of need to pay their way to guard against surprise attack

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 11

Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, sharply reminded west European allies here today of their obligations under the so-called "transatlantic bargain" which was struck within Nato last year.

The Americans, partly under Nato's long-term defence programme, are pushing ahead with a reinforcement programme which would double the size of their land forces in west Europe within two weeks of a sudden attack, and triple their air forces over here in even less time.

But in return, they are relying upon west Europe to play its part by providing stocks of equipment and air bases for the reinforcements when they arrived.

The West Germans have extensive plans for requisitioning civilian communications, roads and vehicles to help the Bundeswehr in wartime. The United States want similar provisions made for their own troops when they cross the

Atlantic. Sufficient air bases in Britain is one priority.

His own country was fulfilling its share of the bargain, Mr Brown said, but the Europeans had to contribute their share because the Americans could not do it all on their own.

He identified four areas in which the alliance was still falling short of its targets: size of war stocks; capacity to wage electronic warfare; number of reserves; and communications equipment.

It is unlikely however that his remarks, made at what American officials described as a "sombre session" of Nato's defence committee, will be directed at Mr Francis Pym, the British Defence Secretary.

Mr Pym who made a similar appeal, no less robust, could back in the satisfaction of knowing that Britain has increased its defence budget by over 4 per cent in 1979-80. This is not only more than 1 per cent higher than the target set by Nato two years ago but is a better performance than any other country, including the United States.

Not only Nato's more impoverished members like Portugal and Turkey, but a number of richer powers such as Denmark, Canada and Italy are failing to meet their three per cent targets this year.

Even the West Germans are unlikely to raise their defence spending by the required amount, although they point out they have a higher budget than most NATO members and should not be under quite the same obligation.

General Zeiner Gundersen, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, presenting his six-monthly report, said there was no sign of the Warsaw Pact military build-up reaching its peak. Imbalance challenged: Nato's military imbalance was challenged by a delegation of 14 women who visited the Alliance Headquarters today.

"If these costly first-strike, non-verifiable weapons systems are deployed, they will undermine the spirit of détente and render the arms race beyond control," said Mrs Kay Carop, of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. —A

Guide to European Parliament

What Budget defeat would mean

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Dec 11

The European Parliament is expected this week to reject the EEC budget for 1980 and ask for a new draft to be submitted to it. What follows is a plain man's guide to the Parliament, its powers and the implications of the unprecedented action it is contemplating.

The Parliament: There is some doubt whether the European Parliament should go by that name at all. The Rome treaty speaks only of an "assembly". The Parliament certainly has few of the powers usually associated with such a body. Nor can it acquire any more without the permission of EEC member states.

It cannot, for example, make or break governments because there is no supranational European government accountable to it. Nor can it initiate, amend or pass legislation. It can do little more than offer opinions, which member states are required to seek but not to heed.

The one important exception to this essentially consultative role is the part played by the Parliament in determining the size and composition of the EEC's annual budget. Yet even here, there are strict limits to what the Parliament can do.

Direct elections: The direct elections to the Parliament, whose members were previously appointed by national parliaments, were held between June 7 and June 10 this year. This increased its size from 198 to 410 members but did not change its constitutional position.

None the less, the resolve of Euro-MPs to use such powers as they do possess more boldly than in the past clearly owes much to the self-confidence that has come from being directly elected.

The elections returned a broad centre-right majority, though the Socialists (including the rump of Britain's Labour contingent) emerged as the single biggest group with 112 seats.

The other groups are Christian Democrats (108),

British and Danish Conservatives (64), Communists (44), Liberals (40), French Gaullists, Irish Fianna Fail and Danish Progress Party under the joint banner of European Progressive Democrats (22), and others (30).

Budgetary powers: Each year the European Commission draws up an estimate of the funds needed in the following year to finance EEC policies, and proposes an allocation between the various sectors—agriculture, industry, regional development, social aid to the unemployed and so on.

This estimate is forwarded to EEC budget ministers who invariably make savage cuts in money, and the level of which they consider to be entirely a matter for national governments. For their part, the British were torn between their desire for tighter control of farm spending and distrust of the Parliament's ambitions.

Budget rejection: Provided more than half the total membership of the House and two thirds of all votes cast are in favour, the Parliament can reject the entire budget and request a new draft.

Implications of rejection: The EEC would not run out of money. The Parliament has no control over budget revenue which is furnished automatically by customs duties, agricultural levies and a portion of the proceeds of value-added tax.

So long as no budget has been adopted, however, the EEC is in principle prohibited from spending more money than the previous year, though some leeway is apparently allowed. The Council of Ministers to vote an increase in agricultural expenditure without parliamentary approval.

Rejection of the budget would thus not be quite as cataclysmic as it might seem. All the same, prolonged deadlock would have severe problems of cash flow, particularly for the profligate agricultural sector. The Parliament hopes this threat will be enough to bring concessions from member states.

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Safe haven for world's largest floating dock

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 11

The world's biggest floating dock arrived safely in southern Norway yesterday after an Euronorm 1,300-tonne journey which started near the North Cape.

The Russian dock, which was stranded near Murmansk in October, was towed to the two most powerful tugboats in the world, the Rotterdam-based Smit London and the Smit Rotterdam. It is hoped that repairs can be made to the dock, which would have broken up in the Arctic winter if it had been left stranded.

The journey almost ended in disaster some two weeks ago when heavy storms in the Atlantic forced the convoy to take refuge in a fjord near Trondheim along the coast of central Norway.

Strasbourg horse trading enters crucial phase

From David Wood
Strasbourg, Dec 11

The EEC's characteristic horse trading over the budget for 1980 enters a crucial phase in Strasbourg tomorrow. On Thursday, the European Parliament will vote on a nearly unanimous thrust to reject the council of ministers' substantive budget, and after a trial of electronic voting last night, the vote is expected to be by roll call.

Tomorrow, the Council of Ministers meets here to decide whether, according to practice, it can let a few crumbs fall from its table to make possible a compromise with the Parliament.

Something will depend on the level of representation of the governments of the nine in tomorrow's Council of Ministers. The Finance Council that "arrogantly" disregarded the Parliament's amendments to the budget consisted mainly of junior ministers.

Tomorrow the Council is again demoted to minister of state level by some countries, in a day when nothing but finance ministers would appease

a democratically excited Parliament.

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French accuse Britain of spreading new dog disease

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 11

Britain, already unpopular in France because of its attempts to sell lamb here, has now fallen into bad odour with French dog breeders. It is all because of the tiny Parvo virus which is running amok among France's eight million dogs.

The virus comes from Texas, and is apparently a close relative of the virus which causes typhoid in cats. In 1977 it raged around the Lone Star State, killing off the older and weaker of man's best friends.

From Texas, where the virus began to diminish in ferocity after about a year, the virus invaded Europe, presumably

travelling by jet on Texas shoe-soles. The principal migration routes appear to have been through Britain, Belgium and Holland, where the disease was first noticed last spring.

The symptoms are diarrhoea, vomiting and often bleeding. About 5 per cent of the animals which catch it die and the disease is distressing to have to treat.

The first case arrived in France in June and since then it has spread widely, although not uniformly, across the country. Paris and Alsace seem the worst hit with up to 30 cases a day being reported to veterinarians. So far 19 different regions have been affected.

Paris tribute to Fastnet helicopter crews

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 11

La Hogue, St Vincent, the Nile, Trafalgar are not the only things the Marine Nationale and the Royal Navy have in common. They have fought a common enemy since the Crimean war, and continue to battle against the elements together.

Perhaps for the very reason that they fought each other so valiantly and so gallantly in the spirit of comradeship between French and British seamen, in spite of the "language war", is so strong at present.

One felt it last night at the banquet given in the magnificent setting of the National Maritime Museum by the Yacht Club de France (YCF) in honour of the officers and men of the helicopters of the Royal Navy who rescued 74 yachtsmen, many of them French, in the most dramatic rescue shipwrecked by the storm in last autumn's Fastnet race.

Among those present at the dinner, attended by about 150 members of the YCF and their wives, were Admiral Patou, the former chief of staff of the French Navy, and Commander Luc Marie Rayle, director of the National Maritime Museum.

In his speech of welcome in English, the YCF President, M. Philippe Maucet, said: "Most of those rescued were yachtsmen. In the most dramatic conditions by a line hanging from the helicopters. No one would ever have thought it possible at night, in such mountainous seas, with winds of 60 knots, to achieve these fast rescue operations. We are all sea lovers, and friends across the sea, and we wanted to tell you, who did all this, our admiration for your bravery, your skill, and your success."

Replying in excellent French to the president's speech, Captain W. S. Guetach, the British naval attaché admitted that he was no yachtsman.

"When I go to sea, I need a ship of at least 2,000 tons, a crew of 200, a bathroom, a steward and a chef," he remarked. "The helicopters of the Royal Navy have frequently participated in rescue operations of this kind, often in the most awful weather, and hundreds of kilometres away from their base."

Such rescue operations, he said, demanded cooperation between seamen and airmen and often between countries. "Cooperation between the rescue services of our two countries is well rehearsed. That is one of the many fields in which the French Navy and the Royal Navy join forces."

Recalled Dutch envoy goes back to Paris

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Dec 11

The Dutch Ambassador to France, Jan van der Stoep, has returned to his post in Paris. He had been recalled a week ago as a protest against the French Government's decision not to submit a convention against the extradition of the Rhine to the National Assembly for ratification.

In a letter to Parliament the Dutch Government says: It expects France to put forward proposals which will lead to a substantial reduction in the amount of salt being dumped into the Rhine by the state-owned potash mines in Alsace.

If the French proposals are not forthcoming this will have "increasingly negative consequences on the relations between the Netherlands and France", the letter adds.

Sicilian police arrest Mafia 'godson'

Palermo, Dec 11—Leoluca Bagarella, a reputed Mafia "godson", was arrested today in the centre of his native Corleone in Sicily after an extensive search in Italy and abroad.

Signor Bagarella, aged 36, said police he had a long association with the Mafia. He was arrested while driving with false identity papers.

Investigators had been searching for him for more than a year in connection with charges ranging from conspiracy to commit crime to various murder investigations.

One investigation involves the murder of Boris Giuliano, a Palermo narcotics boss, which a few days after 9th of heroin was found in what police believed to be one of Signor Bagarella's hiding places.—AP.

South Africa admits cat explosion on ocean isle

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Dec 11

South Africa has admitted setting off an explosion deep in the South Atlantic. But it is not the nuclear war the West suspects it has conducted. On remote Marion Island, 1,200 miles south of Cape Town, which is used as a weather station, there has been a weather explosion of cats.

Five ordinary domestic cats were taken to the island after it was annexed by South Africa in 1947 to deal with rats which were plaguing the meteorologists.

By 1976 the original five had multiplied to more than an estimated 6,000 and thieving virtually exterminated the rats. A new generation of cats had been bred, but their attention was on birds which roost on the island.

According to Professor John Skinner, of the Department of Zoology at the University of Pretoria, the cats have been killing more than 600,000 birds a year and several species are now endangered.

But a desperate measure to bring down the cat population has angered animal lovers in South Africa. Helicopters have been used to deliver 100 cats infected with feline leucitis, a selected pest of the island.

The virus has spread successfully and the cat population has been more than halved.

Dr Michael Leven, chairman of the South African Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), said: "It is cruel and inhumane to infect cats with feline leucitis. It is a terrible and suffering death. In a sophisticated scientific civilization, where man has been able to put man on the Moon and to manufacture petrol from coal, one would expect to find a way of humanely euthanizing these animals."

He is writing to the World Federation for the Protection of Animals, in Zurich, to ask whether it can offer any scientific advice to solve the problem.

Mr Rudi van Aarde, a research officer at the Mammal Research Institute of Pretoria University, said the cats preyed mostly on seabirds.

Previous attempts to reduce the cat population, including sterilization, had been unsuccessful. "The virus does not affect anything else and that is why we decided to use it."

How long it will work is not certain. Some zoologists believe a new generation of cats on Marion Island will develop immunity to the virus.

OVERSEAS

Final act of Smith defiance as Salisbury parliament ends the 14 years of rebellion

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Dec 11

In a final act of defiance, Mr Ian Smith, leader of Rhodesia's 230,000 whites, took his country into rebellion against Britain 14 years ago, has decided to boycott the arrival tomorrow of the British Government-designate, Lord Soames.

Mr Smith is one of three members of the outgoing Zimbabwe Rhodesian Government who were invited to attend the ceremony at the airport to welcome Lord Soames. A spokesman for Mr Smith said he would be unable to attend because he would be away.

However, Mr Smith was present in Salisbury this afternoon for the signing of a bill which formally terminates 14 years of UDI and it was learned here that he will be at his home tomorrow.

The other absentees are Mr Silas Muzurewa, the Deputy Prime Minister, who is still in London and Mr David Maloney, who is away.

Lord Soames is due in Salisbury at 2.10 pm tomorrow. He will be met first by Mr Robin Byatt, the British representative in Salisbury and then by members of the outgoing Government led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and also by Mr J. Lewis, the acting Chief Justice.

A British spokesman said the welcoming delegation had been chosen because they were "leading delegates" at the Lancaster House conference.

However it was noted that internal representatives of the Zazu and Zazu wings of the Patriotic Front organisation who also attended the Lancaster House talks will not be present for the Governor's arrival.

Lord Soames will be driven to Government House and will later broadcast to the nation on radio and television.

Confirmation of Lord Soames' arrival was first given by Bishop Muzorewa at the start of this afternoon's parliamentary debate on the Constitution of Zimbabwe Rhodesia Amendment Bill which dissolves the present Government and brings to an end the "internal settlement".

The house was hushed and tense when Bishop Muzurewa announced that the governor's impending arrival, no act which marks the country's return to legality.

The Bill, which declares that Zimbabwe is no longer a sovereign state and hands over power to the British government, was introduced by Mr Chris Andersen, the Minister of Justice.

He told black and white MPs there was no profit to be gained by examining what some believe to have been lost. "I believe there should be far more profit in concentrating on what has been won."

Mr Andersen dealt at length with the legalities of replacing the old constitution with a new constitutional arrangement. He said that if it was legal for the previous parliament to revoke the 1969 white-

rule constitution then it was difficult to accept that the present parliament could not revoke the existing constitution.

The Bill was approved by 80 votes to nil. It will be published in an extraordinary issue of the Government Gazette before Lord Soames' arrival. Meanwhile, Combined Operations headquarters announced the deaths of 35 more people during the last two days of the Rhodesian Security Council at the committee on Zambia arrived today for a four-day visit to assess the cost of repairs to the 12 rail and road bridges blown up by Rhodesian commandos.—AP.



Laughter in Parliament from Mr Smith during the debate which ended 14 years of UDI.

Allies asked to press Iran harder

From Our Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 11

Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary called for more positive support for America in its attempts to free hostages in Iran, when he addressed a press conference here today.

He thanked the Allies for the sympathy and support, which had been much appreciated by the United States. But he went on to say it was now appropriate for the Allies, our friends and the world community to reflect their disapproval through concrete diplomatic and economic steps.

Mr Brown, who has spoken individually to other defence ministers attending a week of Nato meetings, declined to specify what form the steps might take.

Asked if he ruled out the option of a naval blockade against Iran, he replied: "I neither rule out nor rule in anything." But he said he would prefer to bring purely diplomatic and economic pressure to bear.

Mr Brown expressed concern at the treatment of the hostages. "The denial of requests that neutral outsiders be allowed to see and talk with the hostages on a regular basis to determine their condition compounds the outrage. It makes me, for example, very suspicious of statements that they are being well treated."

"Where are they? How are they? The world demands to know. Their isolation, the blind denial of conversations with each other and with outsiders—these facts are not compatible with the hollow assurances that they have not been harmed," he said.

Vance plea: Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State today met West German leaders to seek support for collective economic pressure to secure the release of the hostages (Patrick Clough writes from Bonn).

The West Germans have been extremely reserved about the meeting and are refusing even to discuss possible measures, even hypothetically, until they have heard what Mr Vance has to say.

Bonn would clearly like to show the maximum solidarity with its most important ally, but economic measures would create legal and practical problems and there is also concern for the safety of numerous West German businessmen, technicians and diplomats in Iran.

Spy trial of US hostages to be postpone while 'American crimes' are investigated

Tehran, Dec 11—Mr Sadeq Qorbadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, said today that the trial of American hostages on charges of spying will be deferred until an international commission has investigated the "crimes" of the United States.

Mr Qorbadeh told selected foreign journalists at a press conference that the formation of the international commission would be announced within 10 days. He called it a "grand jury" and said its foreign members would not include diplomats accredited to Iran.

The students holding the 50 hostages at the American Embassy would not comment on Mr Qorbadeh's proposal, but said: "The hostages do not belong to Qorbadeh or the Foreign Ministry but they belong to the whole nation, whose decision is expressed by Imam (the Ayatollah) Khomeini."

Mr Qorbadeh told the press conference: "We are going to have independent international observers to go and visit the prisoners. I hope in a very short time."

Asked if the so-called grand jury would try the hostages, he replied: "A grand jury is a grand jury, not a trial."

About 430 revolutionary followers of the radical leader, Shaiikh Muhammad Montazeri, today occupied the departure lounge of Tehran international airport for the second day and pledged not to evacuate the airport grounds until they boarded an aircraft to fly to Lebanon to fight Israel and its allies.

Defying Lebanon's decision not to accept the volunteers and the measures taken in Beirut to prevent them landing there, Shaiikh Montazeri said they would enter Lebanon by first flying to Damascus.—Reuters and UPI.

Robert Fisk writes from Tehran: The arrival of the Iranian Government's peace mission to the north-western

Tehran TV interview angers White House

From David Cross
Washington, Dec 11

A staged television interview with one of the 50 hostages being held in the American embassy in Tehran has angered White House and congressional leaders in Washington.

During the interview, which was broadcast by the NBC television network last night, William Calley, a Marine corporal, said that he and colleagues were being treated by their captors.

Before and after the interview, a spokesman told "students" holding the embassy, read a prepared speech appealing to the American people to put pressure on the Iranian government to return the hostages.

The use of ex comments apparently part of a worked out between Mr S. Calley and the Iranian government. Although the hostages were put to Mr Calley by NBC reporters the interview was filmed by an Iranian television crew in front of a large colour portrait of Ayatollah Khomeini.

The two other big American television networks, ABC and CBS, declined to agree to conditions.

After the interview, Mr John Brademas, the Democratic Whip in the House of Representatives, said: "His views reflected the attitude of some of the leaders of the Iranian revolution. Such a move was not in the interest of the hostages he added."

The description of the conditions of the host offered by the marine differed sharply from earlier reports that they lacked exercise facilities. Some administration officials claiming that some of the hostages have been interrogated at gunpoint.

French free Iranian sent back by Britain

Paris, Dec 11—A 40-year-old Iranian, deported from Britain during the night, was released after questioning today by French police investigating the case of the hostages.

Mr John Brademas, the Democratic Whip in the House of Representatives, said: "His views reflected the attitude of some of the leaders of the Iranian revolution. Such a move was not in the interest of the hostages he added."

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Warning system noise recorded in DC10 crash

New York, Dec 11—A recording recovered from the crash of an Air New Zealand DC10 in the Antarctic mountains includes a noise from a warning system designed to alert the pilot when the altitude is too low. The New York Times reported today.

It quoted United States officials who are studying the voice recording and flight recorder as saying it was not known when the crash would have had time to react. The officials said that crash in which all 257 people aboard were killed, could have been caused by a navigational error and weather conditions which obscured the ground.

The airliner, which was en route from Auckland to Los Angeles, crashed on Mount Erebus on November 28.

The officials said the flight recorder showed no signs of structural or mechanical failure on the DC10 and the voice recorder contained no words of alarm or exchanges to indicate knowledge of the crew the crash was imminent.

Bodies recovered: The last bodies recovered from the crash were flown to Auckland for identification (Wellington correspondent writes).

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OVERSEAS Colonel Gaddafi suspends aid to PLO and says he wants to improve relations with US

Benghazi, Dec. 11.—Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, today accused Mr. Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, of plotting with officials of Al Fatah against the Palestinian revolution.

Colonel Gaddafi said in an interview that statements by Mr. Arafat, "containing personal insults about me and showing a conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution."

He added: "There is no difference between Begin (the Israeli Prime Minister) and a Palestinian who is trying to ruin the Palestinian people's will."

The Libyan leader said he understood why the Arab League preferred to side with Israel rather than Al Fatah.

Mr. Arafat and the LO were reported to sell out the Palestinian people, he said. Libya was suspending all contributions to the PLO and ending the money over to representatives of the 60,000 Palestinians who work in Libya.

Colonel Gaddafi said he had decided on Sunday to expel the aid of Al Fatah's bureau in Tripoli because of complaints received from Palestinians about the official's conduct.

"He made Palestinians pay in sums of money, he maltreated and even tortured cer-

tain of his companions," he said. —Agence France Presse.

Assurances from United States? The Libyan leader in another interview, set aside earlier threats against the United States and said Libya wanted to improve its relations with the United States.

"We wish to intensify our dialogue with the United States," he said.

Libya had received assurances from Washington that allowed him to forget for the present his threats to impose an oil embargo against the United States or to consider a reduction in Libyan oil production of 10 million barrels a day, of which the United States imports 700,000.

According to Colonel Gaddafi, the assurances were that if President Carter is reelected there would be a shift in United States policy in the Middle East towards a more neutral position. These assurances, he said, came from the President through unofficial but reliable channels.

The assurances had been interpreted, "as meaning a more neutral American posture in the conflict between the Arabs and Israel. We also believe they might mean a more sympathetic attitude towards the Palestinian people, who have been dealt with very unfairly by the Americans."

Colonel Gaddafi said unofficial messages had passed between Tripoli and Washington on the question of the United States Embassy, which Libyan demonstrators ransacked and burnt on December 4. He said his Government would see to it that nothing similar happened again.

He had told the President that Libya could and would protect the embassies in Libya. The United States reduced its embassy staff to a minimum after the attack.

Colonel Gaddafi also condemned Israel for the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran and holding hostages. Although he made some explanations on behalf of the Israelis, he said their action was not a success. "Israel was hurting the region's reputation."

He implied that the Libyans, who have close relations with Iran, had tried to mediate the release of the hostages and were continuing to do so.

"I am quite frankly totally opposed to the holding of hostages, not only in Israel but anywhere in the world," Colonel Gaddafi said. Libya has been accused by the United States of harboring international terrorists, a charge he denies vehemently. —New York Times News Service.

Reshaping of Israeli forces is resented

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec. 11.

Serious disagreements are reported among senior Army officers over a decision by Major General Mordechai Gur, the Minister of Defence, to press ahead with a controversial plan to reshape the Israeli defence forces.

The full extent of the discontent is difficult to judge but yesterday The Washington Post reported that one senior general had resigned. The newspaper claimed that a number of others, including General Dan Shomron, the commander of the Entebbe raid, were also ready to leave in protest.

Under the plan, the armoured corps, artillery, paratroops and infantry would be combined into a single ground force command.

Diplomats see the scheme as an attempt to restructure the defence forces along lines more suited to the possibility of lasting peace with Egypt. It has also been interpreted as a blow to the prestige of General Rafael Eytan, the Chief of Staff.

A noted "lawyer" has recently been much criticized for reducing the sentences of Israeli officers involved in outrages during the invasion of Lebanon.

The plan was devised by the politically moderate Major General Israel Tal, who yesterday returned from six years in the Army reserves to take over as commander of the ground forces command. His promotion was seen by many commentators as a sign that despite his age—he is 56—he was being groomed as the next chief of staff.

General Tal is the designer of the Merkava, Israel's only home-produced battle tank and is generally held to believe that the country's strength depends on its defence of its territory.

Today Mr. Weizmann told Knesset's defence and foreign affairs committee that the Washington Star report was malicious gossip. He is reported to have said: "It is true that there is a report of a resignation, but it is not a resignation. It is a transfer of command. The Israeli defence force is not a factory and when a decision is made, it is carried out."

Antony said: "Renewed American diplomatic efforts to achieve a breakthrough in the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories will continue tomorrow when Mr. Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, flies back to Cairo."

He will be accompanied by Dr. Joseph Burg, the leader of the Israeli negotiating team. They will confer with Mr. Khalil al-Kharrat, the Egyptian Prime Minister.

Western sources were still doubtful tonight that sufficient progress could be made on the many outstanding issues of substance to meet the May deadline in the Camp David agreements.



Mrs Rosalynn Carter shows off the 18-ft high Christmas tree in the White House yesterday.

Accused S Korean dismisses lawyers

Seoul, Dec. 11.—The man who admitted assassinating President Park Chung-hee dismissed his 21 lawyers today, saying that their defence would diminish the importance of his "national revolution to restore democracy" in South Korea.

At the start of the afternoon court martial session, Kim Dae Kyu, the former head of South Korea's Central Intelligence Agency, suddenly stood up and told the court that he had decided that defence lawyers could not help him leave behind the true historical account of why he murdered President Park. He said he would defend himself.

The legal adviser on the five-member panel told Mr. Kim that continuation of the proceedings would be impossible because the law required all defendants to be legally represented. Colonel Kwang Jong Tae, the Judge Advocate, suggested he accept a court-appointed lawyer and Mr. Kim agreed.

The 21 lawyers representing Mr. Kim included civil rights lawyers who previously had represented leading dissidents. In dismissing the lawyers,

who were retained by his family, Mr. Kim said he did not mean to imply that they were "insincere or incapable."

He said he had decided that their efforts would distort the importance of the "national revolution to restore democracy," which he had carried out "with confidence and conviction."

Mr. Kim testified on Saturday that he assassinated President Park to end his one-man rule and restore democracy.

The prosecution today wound up its questioning of the eight defendants. The defence case is expected to start tomorrow and verdicts could be handed down by the weekend.

Mr. Kim, along with Kim Kae Woon, the former President's secretary, and five former KCIA agents are charged with murder with intent for rebellion and attempted rebellion in the assassination of President Park and five of his bodyguards. Another KCIA agent is charged with destroying evidence.

During today's session, all six KCIA agents were questioned. AP.

Defiant cleric to face court over banning

From Eric Marsden, Johannesburg, Dec. 11.

Friction between the Anglican church of South Africa and the state increased today when the Government reacted to actions and speeches at the Anglican provincial synod at Grahamstown in the Cape.

The Rev David Russell, who had attended the synod in defiance of a banning order restricting him to his home area of Wynberg, was yesterday summoned to appear in court to face two counts relating to breach of a banning order.

An official commentary on South African radio today sharply criticized a resolution passed by the synod giving qualified support to the World Council of Churches program to combat racism.

The commentary alleged that the church had given its sanction to people who took up arms against the state.

This was a reference to the resolution on the council's programme which sought to accommodate a wide range of opinions among delegates. It asserted that since there was more than one form of Christian obedience, the church could not commit itself to identify with any liberation movement, political party or government.

On the use of force, it said: "Some Christians feel themselves called to be pacifists, others to defend the Republic

of South Africa in the armed forces and others to leave its borders to take up arms to achieve what they believe will be a more just ordering of society."

The summons against Mr. Russell is expected to cause widespread protests. He was placed under five-year banning order in October, 1977, at the time of the previous government's action against Black Consciousness organizations after the death in detention of Mr. Steve Biko.

Mrs. Helen Suzman, of the opposition Progressive Federal Party, described the summons as an unwelcome move. Mr. Russell is already awaiting court judgment on a previous charge of breaking his banning order.

Anglicans in South Africa are already in ferment over the synod decision to defy the laws which require applications to be made for permits to hold non-racial church meetings and other non-racial activities.

The Archbishop of Cape Town, the Most Rev Bill Burnett, told the synod at the weekend that he is prepared to defer the law even if this leads to "the end of the institutional church."

The archbishop is being urged to seek a meeting with Government ministers to avert confrontation with the state. In view of the new climate of racial reform since Mr. P. W. Botha became Prime Minister.

Nobel money may get tax exemption

Delhi, Dec. 11.—The Indian Government is considering a proposal to exempt from tax the money given to Mother Teresa for winning the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, a Finance Ministry spokesman said today.

The Albanian-born nun, who lives in Calcutta, received the award and \$80,000 Swedish kronor (about \$88,000) at Oslo University yesterday for her work among the world's poor.

Under Indian law, prize money is exempt from tax only when the award has been made by the Government of India. Other cases are considered on merit, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said the Law Ministry had sought clarifications. But press reports here that it had raised objections on the grounds that Mother Teresa was not a full-fledged citizen were not correct, he said.

Some reports said that Mother Teresa would have to pay nearly 80 per cent of the money in income tax if no exemption was granted.

—Reuters.

Soviet army mission in Angola

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Dec. 11.

A 35-member Soviet military mission has arrived in Luanda, the capital of Angola, according to a Luanda radio broadcast monitored here.

Although there are more than 20,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola, the arrival of the Soviet mission at this particular juncture in southern African developments has a menacing connotation, according to observers here.

The mission arrived at the weekend and had already visited Huambo, formerly Nova Lisboa, and the Huila districts to assess the needs of the Angolan Army in the face of "constant enemy attacks."

Although the enemy was not named, forces of Mr. Jonas Savimbi's anti-Government movement Unita are active in southern and central Angola. They have the covers help of South African forces engaged in a guerrilla war with the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in northern Namibia.

Canadian Constitution may be altered over Quebec

From Ian Murray, Paris, Dec. 11.

The new Canadian Government was tackling the problem presented by the Quebec separatist movement on a basis of cooperation rather than confrontation, Mrs. Flora Macdonald, Minister for External Affairs, said in Paris today.

Addressing a meeting of the French Diplomatic Press Association—the first woman to do so—Mrs. Macdonald hinted that there could be changes in the Canadian constitution to enable the Quebecois to preserve their heritage and sense of identity.

But Mrs. Macdonald, who delivered the part of her speech dealing with Quebec in French, made it clear that the Government did not envisage an independent Quebec. "It is our intent... to satisfy, within the fabric of the Canadian Federation,

the need they feel to maintain and foster their own identity."

In those areas where the Quebecois had specific needs, our Government will not confront the Government in Quebec city with a standard or a point of view that would needlessly restrict their own progress to the fulfilment of their objectives. Our constitution is broad and flexible. It is necessary it is changeable."

Mrs. Macdonald said that the Government's policy was to transfer contentious issues, such as off-shore responsibilities and the control of lotteries, to reduce the tensions that exist at the moment, and to work as well as we can with the Government for the people of Quebec.

In this way, she said, the Government was preparing the way for the referendum on Quebec autonomy in June.

Ex-manager back in Hongkong under escort

Hongkong, Dec. 11.—Walter Boxall, former Hongkong telephone company property manager, returned from Britain under escort today after being extradited to face charges of corruption.

Mr. Boxall, on whom an extradition order was signed last week by Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is expected to appear in court tomorrow to answer 20 counts alleging bribery and conspiracy to defraud.

He left for London suddenly last year with his wife while Hongkong's Independent Commission against Corruption was investigating his activities. —Reuters.

Indian Premier's party calling for skyscraper ban

Delhi, Dec. 11.—The People's Party (Lok Dal) of Mr. Charan Singh, the caretaker Prime Minister, announced today that if it was returned to power in next month's election it would ban luxury cars and the construction of skyscrapers, breweries and casinos.

In an election manifesto advocating austerity, the party said it would prohibit the use of small cars, discourage gambling, money-lending and, occasionally, murder.

Sir Colin said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia.

Sir Colin said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia.

The party would follow the economic policy advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, based on self-reliance and the use of small cottage industries rather than on development that required large investments but provided relatively few jobs. It promised to break what it called the monopolistic stranglehold of big companies over the Indian economy.

The manifesto also proposed the closure of any public enterprise showing continuous losses, unless it was vital to the economy.

The programme of austerity was necessary, the party said, to prevent the poor getting poorer. Gearing inequalities of wealth and income were the main ills facing the country.

Election officers today accepted the parliamentary candidacy of Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, the younger son of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, a former Prime Minister, overruling objections. The objections were sought to have Mr. Gandhi barred from standing for election in the constituency of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, on the ground that he had been sentenced to jail for destroying a film criticizing his mother.

The election officers ruled that Mr. Gandhi's nomination was valid because an appeal against his sentence was pending in the Supreme Court.

The officers made a similar ruling on objections to the candidacy of Mr. V. C. Shukla, a former Minister of Information.

A number of jokers including one "Jimmy Carter" and one "Ayatollah Khomeini" appear to be running for the election. The Press Trust of India reported today.

The list of 5,200 nominees published here today also included a bugle-bearing "Lone Horseman", who is opposing Mrs. Gandhi at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

Whenever he sees a crowd, he rides up, blows his bugle and declares that all political parties and their leaders are corrupt. —Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

Los Angeles busing causes 'white flight'

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Dec. 11.

The results of a new study into the effects of the Los Angeles school desegregation programme comes as no surprise to critics of the busing plan which is now in its second year. It confirms that mandatory busing is the key reason for "white flight" by many families.

Mr. J. Michael Ross, a Boston University sociologist, presented his findings last Wednesday in the form of testimony in the Los Angeles Superior Court desegregation hearings before Judge Paul Ely, who is overseeing the plan, the largest ever undertaken in the United States. In September, 1978, the programme began with some 40,000 nine and 13 being bused across town. Mr. Ross measured the behaviour of about 400 white families against their attitudes a year before busing began.

He found that 38.4 per cent of white students due to be bused to predominantly black or Mexican-American schools did not show up. The absentee rate of white students exempted from busing was only 14.7 per cent.

Most of the "white flight" in Los Angeles, he said, consisted of transfer to private and church schools rather than families moving out of the district. Those who did leave the area tended to be higher income families.

Other findings in the study, which was ordered by the Los Angeles Board of Education, included: People who believed school desegregation reduced racial prejudice were more likely to stay in their district families with older children (12 or over) and with no elementary school-aged youngsters were more likely to stay.

Recently the Los Angeles Board of Education asked Judge Ely to eliminate mandatory busing, pointing out that it had led to such extensive "white flight" that desegregation was no longer possible.

Further hearings are expected with additional testimony being presented, before Judge Ely gives any decisions.

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Australians to attack drug syndicates

From Douglas Aiton, Melbourne, Dec. 11.

The newly formed Australian federal Police, under Sir Colin Fookes, the former British chief of Constabulary, is to increase its attack on drug racketeering in Australia.

It is thought that the force will soon begin harassing people it believes to be criminal syndicate leaders. Although primarily using new powers against drug trafficking, the force will also employ other powers, including currency and banking regulations, in an attempt to convict ring leaders.

The Government is increasingly concerned about the growth of the illicit drug market in Australia. Sir Colin has said that the problem has become a deeply rooted tree with branches reaching into the law and the criminal underworld and that the force must go beyond drug trafficking to involve most major organized crime.

The figures given by Sir Colin deserve consideration:

one kilogram of heroin can be bought in South-East Asia for \$45,000 (about £4,000) and can be sold in Australia for at least 10 times as much.

The heroin market is no longer the preserve of small, backstreet operators. It is big business, worth between \$40m and \$100m a year.

"The gloves are off," Sir Colin said in an interview about his plans.

Australia's performance against drug trafficking has not been impressive. Only between 2.5 and 5 per cent of all drugs coming into the country are seized, which means that between 600 and 1,200 kilograms of heroin may have been smuggled into Australia this year.

Heads of federal and state police forces are meeting in Melbourne as a result of Sir Colin's plans, but the new federal programme is understood to go beyond drug trafficking to involve most major organized crime.

It is believed that there are

new criminal "businesses" operating in Australia, all with some involvement in drugs, but also in prostitution, gambling, money-lending and, occasionally, murder.

Sir Colin said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia. He said he was shocked at the extent of trafficking and drug-related crime in Australia.

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New guide soon is Chinese 'drop red book'

Peking, Dec. 11.—China will soon publish a new guide for Communist Party members to replace Chairman Mao Tse-tung's Little Red Book.

The People's Daily said today that the book, called *Fundamentals of the Party*, sums up the party's experience.

The first six chapters deal with the party's ideology, organizational principles, party discipline and the next three explain the party's next work, the mass line, criticism and self-criticism. The last chapter is about the rights and duties of party members and their exemplary role in the country's modernization drive.

Until Chairman Mao's little red book became the bible of 800 million Chinese during the Cultural Revolution, the standard reference for Chinese Communists was a book called *How to be a good Communist*, by Liu Shao-chi, former President of the Republic.

The book was heavily discredited by millions of Red Guards but was restored to favour in August. —Agence France-Presse.

Ailing Thai economy keeps general in power

From M. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 11.

The Thai Government, under General Kriangsak Chommand, is under pressure from the armed forces, the National Assembly, and student and trades union leaders amid growing tension along the Thai-Kampuchean border and the poor performance of the economy. But many observers here believe that it is too early to write General Kriangsak off.

He is helped by the reluctance of the armed forces leadership and the seasoned politicians in the National Assembly to take over, knowing that they would have to face the thankless task of sorting out what a former finance minister, Mr. Bhumibol Rajabhat, recently described as the "economic mess."

The present crisis arose not, as one would have reasonably expected, from the tension along the border, but from the Government's decision to double the electricity and water rates from the beginning of November. The Government had subsidized these rates for years.

There was uproar and the

risers were resented when student and labour leaders threatened to demonstrate in the streets. The minister concerned, Mr. Kasame Charitavit, resigned in protest. Since then, eight other ministers have stepped down, ostensibly to enable General Kriangsak to reorganize his Cabinet.

But businesses, the most affected by the proposed rate increases, promptly raised their prices but did not bring them down when the rates were cancelled. The public reaction was a setback for General Kriangsak, who had been careful to maintain support from all factions.

He has also collected powerful enemies, particularly Mr. Tanin Kruakiat, the former Chief Justice who became Prime Minister after the overthrow of Field-Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn in 1976 and is now a respected and powerful member of the King's Privy Council.

General Kriangsak overthrew Mr. Tanin's administration in October, 1977.

General Kriangsak, who was armed forces commander at that time, had quietly made his peace with the student and labour

leaders and other groups opposed to Mr. Tanin before he moved. Once he was Prime Minister, he mended Thailand's fences with the outside world and moved tentatively to bring his country back to some form of democratic government.

It is an irony of Thai politics that in so doing he all but forfeited the support of his erstwhile colleagues in the armed forces, who swung their support to General Prem Tinsulanonda, the present Defence Minister.

Observers here say this was partly because of General Kriangsak's preoccupation with maintaining civilian support.

Because of his general popularity, he was beholden to no sectarian groups except the armed forces and his first Cabinet is generally accepted as one of exceptionally brilliant men. But after the Constituent Assembly, which was elected shortly after he took over, wrote a new constitution and called fresh elections, he found his movements restricted by the presence of political heavyweights in the newly elected National Assembly last April.

He is regularly criticized for the virtual inertia which has re-

sulted from the Cabinet infighting coupled with some rather frequent and trenchant criticism from the National Assembly. No confidence motions were proposed against 10 of his ministers, eight of whom resigned early this week.

At the same time, the armed forces have been restless at what they perceive as his "weakness" in wanting to maintain links with Vietnam even as Hanoi was strengthening its forces along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

The politicians' statements within and without the National Assembly indicate they are ready to remove General Kriangsak. But the truth is otherwise. They say their reluctance stems from the sorry state of the economy.

"The economy is in such shape that if a civilian Prime Minister took over now, he would be overthrown in no time at all," one commander for the leadership said. "Besides, our interests for the moment are best served by a man like General Kriangsak who, after all, technically, is Prime Minister because we voted him in." That in the end could well be General Kriangsak's lifeline.

Social Focus

Politics of poverty: options for change in the social services

When Professor David Donnison resigns next September as chairman of the doomed Supplementary Benefits Commission, he will leave behind a blossoming garden that he has carefully cultivated on the terrace outside his office. Whether the ideas he has contributed to the social security debate will flourish as well as the roses, clematis, honeysuckle and hollyhocks, remains to be seen.

He has succeeded in persuading the Government of two crucial issues: that the secret rules governing entitlement to benefit must be published so that the system is much more open and much less subject to discretion; and that families with children are the most hard-pressed group of claimants and should be given more help.

But there are no signs that the Government is taking any steps to reduce the enormous numbers of people depending on supplementary benefit—now nearly a tenth of the population. Nor is there any hope that the long term unemployed will receive more help, although Donnison has consistently demonstrated that their cash help, now at 25 per cent less than is available to all other claimants, amounts to unfair discrimination. But his biggest disappointment over the whole social security field is that the value of child benefits is being eroded, despite the widespread recognition that they are the most effective means of helping poor families.

"I still wonder whether the whole five years is going to make any difference to claimants", he says. "Was it worth it? There is no doubt that there are going to be changes in the law but more important changes may be not to do with the law but matters of style."

Donnison was the first commission chairman to make it his business to visit claimants and talk to staff in local offices once a month, a

style of working he sees as vital to keeping in touch with the real world outside headquarters bureaucracy and ministerial meetings. It is a style he believes must be followed by the new Social Security Advisory Committee, which will succeed the SBC when the Social Security Bill becomes law next year.

Donnison is 53, industrious and meticulous—he will not open a letter unless he has a letter opener to hand. He came "fast" to the social security field because when he joined the social administration department of the London School of Economics in 1956, the "best experts"—Richard Titmuss, Brian Abel-Smith, Peter Townsend and Tony Lyne, were already there.

He concentrated instead on housing and planning, to which he will be returning next year when he goes to Glasgow University. He has maintained his interest throughout his time at the SBC by working one day a week for the Centre for Environmental Studies, which he directed for six years. His work there will be marked next month by a new book, *The Good City*, which will look at the relationship between urban development and the labour market.

His departure from Glasgow had been planned before it became clear that the Government was passing a motion saying they would not have any black workers in their section. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the union involved, is also carrying out its own investigation.

The second case concerns the National Union of Bleachers and Dyers, and a firm of Bondina Limited. Under a labour supply agreement, the union was responsible for providing the firm with workers and it is alleged by two former convenors at the firm that the union branch secretary never sent any Asian workers in case the firm's white workforce resented them, despite high unemployment among Asian textile workers.

In both cases the allegations suggest an unwholesome alliance between union and company representatives. A large number of such informal agreements have been uncovered by the London Business School's Minority Groups Case Study Project, particularly in the engineering and car industry. Mr John Brock, manager of the project, says they are particularly difficult to tackle because frequently the top union officials and higher management are unaware of them.

Such practices constitute direct discrimination under the Race Relations Act 1976 and most employers and unions, even if they indulge in them, know they are illegal. Some unions, however, might be breaking the law unknowingly through such traditional practices as father to son recruitment.

It seems almost certain that this type of recruitment, which has been particularly common in the docks and printing industry, constitutes indirect discrimination and is equally illegal. The Act says that no condition shall be laid down which is harder for one racial group to comply with than another. To enter the printing industry, it is usually required to have a relative already in it, a condition which is easier for whites to meet than blacks.

Not only have few unions taken up the equal opportunities clause and none consistently monitored its effects, but some unions at a local level have positively discouraged the employment of black workers. They have handed out notices of some members to keep blacks out.

Two such alleged cases are being investigated by the Commission for Racial Equality, but they could represent just the tip of the iceberg. The first case is British Leyland's Castle Bromwich plant where a West

Indian was refused a job as a fitter after a meeting of the all-white fitters' section passed a motion saying they would not have any black workers in their section. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the union involved, is also carrying out its own investigation.

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give it access to the bureaucracy locally and nationally. Its chairman must be able to speak with authority by having access to ministers and their thoughts on policy options, and by being able to walk into any local office and speak to staff without seeking permission first.

Nobody can be sure that the new committee will have a sufficient role to get at the machine, Donnison says. "Unless it adapts the style of the SBC it will not work."

Donnison will be writing at least one book on his experiences at the SBC. It will be called *The Politics of Poverty*, and as well as offering analytical material, will attempt to describe some of the people drawing benefit when he has met.

Two candidates for the latter part of the book will be the elderly widow, forced reluctantly to claim benefit because of an abnormally large electricity bill, and a man in his fifties thrown out of the water after years because the owner of the factory decided to close it down when he retired. The man was given 14 days' notice, an example, in Donnison's view, of the "barbarity of small scale capitalism."

"There must be no chance of getting another job at his age in an area of high unemployment," Donnison says. "It is an appalling way to treat labour. It would be unthinkable in the private sector where employers have an obligation to their workers."

Although a political animal, Donnison rarely makes party points. He is a member of both the Fabian Society and the Labour Party, but is sceptical of all parties.

"The truth about basic social problems is equally embarrassing to all parties," he says. "Things rarely work out the way politicians think."

Nevertheless, he believes that the poverty lobby must strive to get its members into local

political parties of all persuasions if it is to have any success in the future. The middle-class, London dominated academics who led the movement in the 1960s and 1970s are no longer so effective, he believes, because the political climate has changed.

They can no longer assume that ministers will have a guilty conscience about poverty, or that the media and the electorate will be broadly on their side when they draw attention to it," he says. "It is understood by ministers, as it used not to be, that they are not leaders of an army. The spokesman of the poverty lobby have no troops behind them, and they are only going to be heard if they are better informed, offer better solutions, and have a better grasp of what is happening in the field."

Donnison is leaving the SBC having done more than any other individual to open up the debate about social security and the options for change. Without his annual reports, it is doubtful that there would have been any review of the supplementary benefits scheme until the strain of increasing numbers had led to a progressive breakdown of the service.

Having won a breathing space for a complete and considered review of the system, his view of the role of the successor body has authority.

It must, he says, be prepared to raise its own questions, and not deal only with those posed to it by ministers. It must have access to ministers and have the right to make independent reports, particularly annual reports to Parliament on the whole operation of the social security system. That would make it a worthy successor to Donnison's SBC.

Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Traditions that deny jobs to blacks

A senior civil servant recently denied there was any racial discrimination in the civil service. The Department of the Environment is fully multi-racial, he said. "It becomes multi-racial at 6.30 pm when the cleaners arrive."

Employers can no longer advertise racial discrimination and advertise for whites only. That has been outlawed by two Race Relations Acts. But black workers still encounter discrimination from certain industries and denied promotion in others.

Trade unions could be a powerful force in securing better opportunities for black workers yet most have chosen to ignore the subject and some shop stewards have cooperated with supervisors to ensure that blacks remain at the bottom of the promotion ladder.

Many unions have started energetic campaigns to combat racism among their members through union leaflets and the rapid removal of racist slogans from factory walls. Others have not embraced equal opportunity policies with the same vigour, however.

Not until recently, did the TUC give them a strong lead. Until 1975, race relations were dealt with by the TUC's inter-racial committee, which tried its best to sweep the subject under the carpet. It steadfastly opposed the extension of the 1965 Race Relations Act to employment and the introduction of an equal opportunities clause into the contracts of government suppliers.

In 1975, however, the TUC organisation committee took over responsibility for race relations, an equal rights committee was set up and the TUC produced its own model equal opportunities clause for trade unions to include in all national agreements.

But the strong lead did not produce a vigorous response. Four years after the clause was drawn up, a TUC survey revealed that only 17 out of 106 unions had persuaded their employers to include it in any collective agreements. Any evidence that was adopted, the clause has been

anything more than pious words. No union has made any serious attempt to monitor its effects to see whether it has led to more blacks being recruited. None has made a consistent effort to persuade employers to record how many blacks apply for jobs and how many are taken on.

It is not necessary to claim that this shows some sinister racist bias on the part of trade unions. The fact is that in most industries the unions' traditional dislike of records being kept by employers for any purpose. The idea that a person's ethnic origin should be kept in company records is enough to turn some unionists purple.

Yet without monitoring it is hard to see the extent of racial discrimination in the workplace. Mr William (Bill) Keys, general secretary of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), and chairman of the TUC's Equal Rights Committee, believes that without it "you cannot get anywhere."

His committee is split down the middle on the subject and has been for several years which has stopped the TUC taking a strong line on the subject. But partly through Mr Keys' persuasion they have now decided to stop opposing it. When the Commission for Racial Equality recently produced a draft code of practice for employers, which recommended monitoring, the committee did not raise any objections. It is likely to be a long time, however, before the trade union movement becomes a force to be reckoned with on the subject.

Not only have few unions taken up the equal opportunities clause and none consistently monitored its effects, but some unions at a local level have positively discouraged the employment of black workers. They have handed out notices of some members to keep blacks out.

Two such alleged cases are being investigated by the Commission for Racial Equality, but they could represent just the tip of the iceberg. The first case is British Leyland's Castle Bromwich plant where a West

Indian was refused a job as a fitter after a meeting of the all-white fitters' section passed a motion saying they would not have any black workers in their section. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the union involved, is also carrying out its own investigation.

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The Commission for Racial Equality considers father to son recruitment illegal but seems reluctant to take on any of the unions which practice it, not least perhaps because of the blacklash that might result.

The attitude of some trade unionists within the industry can be seen clearly in the case of one member of the Central London branch committee of Sogat. "The commission should think very carefully before stepping in. If something has been happening for 150 to 200 years, as father to son recruitment has been, it is going to go on happening, no matter what laws are passed. We proved that with the Industrial Relations Act and the Penitentiary Five."

Although father to son recruitment is most commonly associated with the printing industry and the docks, it has also been prevalent in certain areas of the textile industry. Mr Keys, who is also a member of the CRE, thinks that the commission will have to tackle this problem eventually. "Father to son recruitment can be considered indirect discrimination. It can be seen as a matter of feeling within the Indian Workers Association, Great Britain, is that many white shop stewards make no attempt to discover the grievances of their Asian members or to present their point of view. The association maintains that there is also a reluctance to make a dispute official when it involves a large number of Asian workers."

The classic case, it cites, is that of the Manchester Hosier Mills dispute in Loughborough in 1972 in which the National Union of Textiles and the Local Union of Textiles refused to back 200 Asians who went on strike for equal access to the better-paid knitting jobs, but it can point to others.

The relevance of the British trade unions for Asian workers increased during the Grubbs strike of 1977 when the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) fought long and hard for a small group of Asian workers but widespread feelings of suspicion and distrust were swept away by one union in one dispute.

Mr Vishnu Sharma, president of the Indian Workers Association (Southall) thinks that important advances have been made within the TUC and that many unions have passed strong motions on the subject of race at their annual conferences.

"But there is no doubt that to pass a conference resolution is one thing and to put such a resolution into action is another." He claims that unions have done little to advance the promotion prospects of their black members in unskilled jobs.

Night shift workers in the textile and car industry, a very high proportion of whom are Asian, are frequently left without any trade union representation at all. They cannot go to branch meetings because they are held in the evenings, the shop stewards are normally on day shifts and the district officials usually work office hours.

Where the will exists, there is a great deal that a union can do to help.

In the West Midlands, for example, a pilot course in basic trade unionism in Punjabi was started last year by the TUC with 18 students. It was so successful that it was repeated in the spring, while in Manchester an organisation called Trade Union Basic Education Studies provides material for similar courses throughout the North West.

To make their members' minds effective, trade unions and to improve their prospects, unions need to campaign for employers to provide English language courses. The TGWU shop stewards at Ford's Dagenham plant led the way in this area by campaigning for English courses for their members.

Trade unions' efforts to advance their shop stewards' education, however, has not been enough. The TUC introduced a section on race into its basic shop stewards course two years ago but the industrial tutors were not adequately briefed and it was not a success. Now, the shop stewards' course carries such a section.

Amabel Fernman

Children's books

Mabel Lucie Attwell—the kiddywinks phenomenon

She was born at Mids-Eton on June 4, 1879, and named Mabel Lucy. Her father was a banker, and for his time, an elderly eccentric gentleman, agnostic and given to encouraging artistic leanings in his children. For Mabel this meant freedom to develop her enjoyment of drawing and, although, after private schooling, she sought some professional training, the abandonment of the schools was not to her taste. Taking a short cut into the market through an agent she began to sell drawings and get commissions for book illustrations.

Lucy was changed into Lucie, and the artist set out on a career that was to lead her to become a national by-word: the creator of "kiddywinks" and a memorialist of the lost age of the cloche hat and afternoon tea at Cadogan.

Mabel Lucie did not light immediately on Kiddywinks, however. Having rejected still life and classic copying she modelled her style on the popular magazine illustration of the turn of the century and her earliest book covers partake of the dilute art nouveau of Helen Burdiss and Hilda Cowman.

(I have been a strange, semi-mental little manuscript picture-story which she did when she was still calling herself "M. Attwell". The drawing is pure Cowman, but the style is already that bulky block lettering that became one of Mabel Lucie's hallmarks).

Indeed, if one looks at the books of her pre-war years—the stories by May Baldwin which she illustrated in black and white for Chambers's, of Edinburgh, the rare Mother Goose board book of about 1910, the *Alice in Wonderland* of 1914—one could compile an anthology of effects derived from John Hassall, decorations from Charles Robinson, and chubby children from his brother W. Heath. In the days before contraptions became all the rage.

And of course it was those chubby children who cried out to the public's hopeful, but misguided notion that babies were bundles of doll innocence. Round about 1911 Mabel Lucie Attwell began to submit drawings for postcards to the Dundee firm of Valentine's and the Attwell gimmick emerged. It was a simple procedure. You painted an idealized baby—bright-eyed, bedimpled and bequipped—and you attached a sly caption in the nature of a

wink at the adult customer ("Them laundries!" says a sexy little lady, dressed only in a shrunken and raggedy shift).

So successful was this formula that Mabel Lucie was able to exploit it in a way that took her into every corner of the family life. (And not just the petit bourgeoisie either. Princess Margaret Rose chose an Attwell design for her Christmas card in 1937. Cards certainly remained a staple pro-

duct—she designed an annual quota for Valentine's right up to her death in 1964—but these were joined during the twenties and thirties by a host of goods that sported Kiddywinks of all kinds above the distinctive Mabel Lucie Attwell block signature. There were calendars and wall plaques—the most famous of these being "Please remember, don't forget, never leave the bathroom wet. There were advertisements and

posters—"Did you come by Underground?" says a Hassall lady as a group of creatures on a bicycle transport.

Like Erid Rhyon, whom she intermittently resembled, Mabel Lucie Attwell was a demon for work and did produce most of her thousands of designs herself. (The chief exception, naturally, was when she was helped by her husband, Harold Earnshaw. He too was an illustrator, and after losing his right arm in the First World War he taught himself to draw left-handed and is said to have been responsible for some of the less Attwellish parts of Attwell pictures, like real dogs as opposed to moon-faced pup-



Mabel Lucie Attwell, by her daughter.

There was a cheerful, if cavalier economy at work in the use of much of this material. A postcard girlie with a "not water bottle captioned" was "Pig to go to bed" was also served for the cover of a booklet of "Comforting Thoughts" while many stories and drawings cropped up in different versions in the writer of Lucie Attwell annuals and story books.

For this reason alone the chief focus for judging her place as an artist (as distinct from a social phenomenon) must surely rest on the illustrations which she did for specific texts—mostly the gift book editions issued by the firm of Raphael Tuck. But when one looks at these it is difficult to see much beyond a surrender to the success of her own mannerisms. By far the most interesting work that she did was for the early books, however, "destrive" and, as chubbiness took over, so she distanced herself more and more from the quality of her classic texts: Andersen, Grimm, The Water Babies.

No better chance to judge this offers itself at present than the bold rescue by Hodder & Stoughton of the illustrated

edition which J. M. Barrie asked her to prepare of his *Peter Pan* and Wendy (1915). Returning to old and re-photographing her original colour illustrations, Hodder's have produced a very creditable "facsimile" of the original gift book, which had suffered many colour catastrophes re-workings since it first appeared in 1912. But so far a representation of her work serves only, also, to show the fatal flaw of both technique and feeling which she brought to the tough job of illustration.

Brian Alderson
A Centenary Exhibition of Mabel Lucie Attwell's work is on show at the Brighton Museum until January 27, 1980.

ENTERTAINMENTS

S should not sit at the table in the theatre but in the lobby

When telephoning the office of any theatre, please mention the name of the theatre

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN: 8.30. 10.00. 10.30. 11.00. 11.30. 12.00. 12.30. 13.00. 13.30. 14.00. 14.30. 15.00. 15.30. 16.00. 16.30. 17.00. 17.30. 18.00. 18.30. 19.00. 19.30. 20.00. 20.30. 21.00. 21.30. 22.00. 22.30. 23.00. 23.30. 24.00. 24.30. 25.00. 25.30. 26.00. 26.30. 27.00. 27.30. 28.00. 28.30. 29.00. 29.30. 30.00. 30.30. 31.00. 31.30. 32.00. 32.30. 33.00. 33.30. 34.00. 34.30. 35.00. 35.30. 36.00. 36.30. 37.00. 37.30. 38.00. 38.30. 39.00. 39.30. 40.00. 40.30. 41.00. 41.30. 42.00. 42.30. 43.00. 43.30. 44.00. 44.30. 45.00. 45.30. 46.00. 46.30. 47.00. 47.30. 48.00. 48.30. 49.00. 49.30. 50.00. 50.30. 51.00. 51.30. 52.00. 52.30. 53.00. 53.30. 54.00. 54.30. 55.00. 55.30. 56.00. 56.30. 57.00. 57.30. 58.00. 58.30. 59.00. 59.30. 60.00. 60.30. 61.00. 61.30. 62.00. 62.30. 63.00. 63.30. 64.00. 64.30. 65.00. 65.30. 66.00. 66.30. 67.00. 67.30. 68.00. 68.30. 69.00. 69.30. 70.00. 70.30. 71.00. 71.30. 72.00. 72.30. 73.00. 73.30. 74.00. 74.30. 75.00. 75.30. 76.00. 76.30. 77.00. 77.30. 78.00. 78.30. 79.00. 79.30. 80.00. 80.30. 81.00. 81.30. 82.00. 82.30. 83.00. 83.30. 84.00. 84.30. 85.00. 85.30. 86.00. 86.30. 87.00. 87.30. 88.00. 88.30. 89.00. 89.30. 90.00. 90.30. 91.00. 91.30. 92.00. 92.30. 93.00. 93.30. 94.00. 94.30. 95.00. 95.30. 96.00. 96.30. 97.00. 97.30. 98.00. 98.30. 99.00. 99.30. 100.00. 100.30. 101.00. 101.30. 102.00. 102.30. 103.00. 103.30. 104.00. 104.30. 105.00. 105.30. 106.00. 106.30. 107.00. 107.30. 108.00. 108.30. 109.00. 109.30. 110.00. 110.30. 111.00. 111.30. 112.00. 112.30. 113.00. 113.30. 114.00. 114.30. 115.00. 115.30. 116.00. 116.30. 117.00. 117.30. 118.00. 118.30. 119.00. 119.30. 120.00. 120.30. 121.00. 121.30. 122.00. 122.30. 123.00. 123.30. 124.00. 124.30. 125.00. 125.30. 126.00. 126.30. 127.00. 127.30. 128.00. 128.30. 129.00. 129.30. 130.00. 130.30. 131.00. 131.30. 132.00. 132.30. 133.00. 133.30. 134.00. 134.30. 135.00. 135.30. 136.00. 136.30. 137.00. 137.30. 138.00. 138.30. 139.00. 139.30. 140.00. 140.30. 141.00. 141.30. 142.00. 142.30. 143.00. 143.30. 144.00. 144.30. 145.00. 145.30. 146.00. 146.30. 147.00. 147.30. 148.00. 148.30. 149.00. 149.30. 150.00. 150.30. 151.00. 151.30. 152.00. 152.30. 153.00. 153.30. 154.00. 154.30. 155.00. 155.30. 156.00. 156.30. 157.

THE ARTS



Christopher Hampton

The art of finding English for Ibsen

Exactly ten years ago Christopher Hampton was appointed Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court in Sloane Square. Any moment someone is likely to dub him Resident Translator at the National Theatre. He has turned two Horvath plays into English for the National, *Tales from the Vienna Woods* and *Don Juan goes to War*. *Vienna Woods* was successful enough to make Maximilian Schell, who started in the play on the South Bank, look to Hampton first for the screen adaptation when he decided to film it. Tomorrow Sir Peter Hall's "concrete bunker" makes its third excursion into Ibsen—*Borkman* on transfer was the first and *Brand* the other when *The Wild Duck* opens at the Olivier, translation by Christopher Hampton.

Hampton fell into the translation business almost by accident. Robert Kidd was directing Isaac Babel's play *Marye* at the Royal Court and he called in Christopher Hampton to make the text a little more malleable. "The version Robert had was perfectly readable, but it wasn't speakable. So I started work with one of the two translators. I remember being asked where I lived and replying quickly 'Oxford'; I was careful not to say that I was there as an undergraduate. Peter Gill provided the next step; he was preparing *Hedda Gabler* with Irene Worth in the title part and when the translation he commissioned didn't arrive he turned to me."

For Hedda Christopher Hampton used the conventional method of working from a literal translation and turning to a collaborator for help on the nuances and double entendres in the text. On *The Wild Duck*, his fourth Ibsen adaptation, he has worked direct from the Norwegian, but still has that word-for-word version and a Norwegian speaker by his side.

"*The Duck* has proved by far the most difficult of the four and I think it will be the last play by Ibsen I will tackle. It's my favourite among his plays, but it's exceedingly difficult to hit the exact tone, that mixture of the realistic and the symbolic. My starting point was to find the exact English equivalent of a number of key words, almost thematic words, that occur throughout the play. They provided the basis for the first version, which I prepared over a six-month period interspersed with other things. The director, Christopher Morahan, then came in and we did a rewrite together. Since then apart from cutting the text and tightening it—*The Wild Duck* is a long play—we've changed very little. That's in total contrast to my collaboration with Max Schell on *Vienna Woods* where we were skirting and adjusting right up to the very last minute. Not very popular with some of the actors, that."

In the third line of the play *Peterson*, the servant of Gregers Werle, says "Bugged in I know," in the Hampton version. Is this a device to make the audience realize they are listening to something new? "No. But that example does throw up one of the problems of translating Ibsen. I'm open to correction, but my Norwegian colleagues assure me that there are no obscenities in their everyday language; if people want to accuse themselves forcefully then they do it by a series of carefully graded references to God and the Devil. So we have to find their English equivalent. The most acute difficulty of all is in the final line of the play, spoken by Relling. The wording in the original is still strong enough to make elderly ladies blush as the curtain comes down. Some translators, I'm told, leave it out altogether. We're still wrestling with it."

So is the prolific Hampton of *When did you last see my Mother?* and *Savages* changing? "It's true that I haven't written a new play since *Treats*, although I'm working on one at the moment. Rather it's a matter of channelling one's energies in other directions. The translations have been useful in filling in the arid periods, but at the moment my main interest is film."

"I've done a four-part adaptation of Malcolm Bradbury's novel *The History Man*, which is about to go into production at the BBC, and for the past year I've been writing a film about Dora Carrington, using Michael Holroyd's *Strachey* biography as my starting point. I've also managed to lay my hands on the complete Carrington correspondence thanks to Michael. And there are more translations. I was offered *Marivaux*, but I think he is outside my scope. Buxton asked me to make an English version of *Berlioz's Béatrice et Bénédict* for next year's festival, but there isn't time to fit that in. There are certain writers I would not touch, Pirandello and Nestroy among them. So for the moment it's back to Horvath and *Italienische Nacht*, which is about a greedy Bavarian innkeeper in 1929 who wants to let out rooms simultaneously to the Nazis and a left-wing party. And there's another Horvath play about the Munich Oktoberfest, which Max Schell and the National Theatre are interested in."

The Translator in Residence tag will not be easy to shake off. "No. But it's a question of terminology. It's not a translation, it's not an adaptation; it's faithful to the original. The most encouraging reaction I could hear would be for someone to say, 'It seems like a new play.' Anyone looking at Hampton's collected works is likely to note that, as the number of translations has grown, the output of original plays has diminished.

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John Higgins

London debuts

The week's youngest contender was a 24-year-old American guitarist, John Holmquist, whose playing no less than his programme testified to his belief in his instrument as a serious music-maker. True, his chosen novelty, Daniel Sturms' *Three Bagatelles* (1979), teetered uncertainly and insignificantly between neo-romantic lyricism and parody of Bach. But in Bach's own second lute suite and Couperin's "Tombeau de M. Blancrocher" there was again much to enjoy in Mr Holmquist's sensitivity and poise, his mellow tone and intently musical use of colour.

Newcomers to the south, though not the north, of England as a clarinet and piano duo, John Fuest and Stephanie Bamford could first be welcomed for an engaging bill-offer including the London premiere of Stephen Pratt's atmospheric yet shapely *A Winter's Farewell* and Koechlin's succinct, neo-classical second sonata. Mr Fuest relished escape from his Liverpool orchestral desk, spicing his controlled agility with pungent attack and a wide dynamic range in the new works and also in Weber's Grand Duo Concertant, Debussy's *Rhapsodie No 1* and miniatures by Schumann, Reger and Lutoslawski, too.

The Japanese violinist, Hiroshi Okouchi could also boast considerable experience, at home in orchestral and chamber music as well as solo fields. If not a spontaneously bird-like, lyrical character, he had enough first-edged strength of tone and command of bow and fingers to carry him through Bartok's long-demanding first sonata with real aplomb. John Blakey was a courageously emphatic, all-conquering keyboard partner, innuendo sometimes emerged too explicit in Debussy's *Sonata*, and Brahms's No 2 would have benefited from more personal phrasing. But these were also broadly developed, as was a new unaccompanied sonata by Shigehiro Ikebe, most memorable for its reflective finale.

None of the week's visitors could boast a sturdier technique than the German pianist Robert Leonard. Though rival recital prevented me from hearing his Couperin and Ravel, there was ample evidence of uncommonly even, fluent fingers in a *Fantasia* and *Fugue* (a *fantasia* of force) by Bach offered as first encore, while wrists and arms came into their own in the course of Mendelssohn's *Variazioni Serenissime*.

Joan Chissell

ECO/Kraemer St John's

Few orchestras manage to sound so good in the generous acoustics of St John's, Smith Square, and some sound really luscious. The English Chamber Orchestra, boldly setting aside current theories about the proper sound for baroque music, offered plenty of nourishment to the hungry ear in Monday night's concert. Their programme was mainly of Bach; and one rarely hears his polyphony so fulsome. But there were times when one could hardly hear it at all. The trouble with such under-articulated playing is that the rich sound becomes richer, and the poor, poorer. Any imbalance in the music is accentuated. And Brandenburg Concerto No 3, in which you come to listen to it, an extraordinarily odd balanced piece.

Bach, his mind set on symmetry—and, it is only fair to say, his ear set on timbres quite different from ours—scored it for three violins, three violas and three cellos, with harpsichord (double bass) and harpsichord. He was extravagant with his cellos; only for five bars in the entire work are

the three not in unison, and mostly they have the bass and the harpsichord with them, top, while the violins and violas are often independent.

In a performance like this, the bass line booms forth, supporting the body like a foundation garment of sprung steel. Some unusual things were happening above, too. In particular, the players often supplemented Bach's dynamic indications, thereby supplying a new touch of refinement. The hush at the climactic final ritornello was particularly remarkable.

Brandenburg No 5, though it was not a very polished performance, was more enjoyable. William Bennett, passing sweetly on the flute, and Josef Fröhlich was the attentive violin soloist; Nicholas Kraemer at the harpsichord played with character, and carried off the big cadenza with style, lacking only a hint of rhetoric at the end. Earlier Mr Fröhlich had partnered the eloquent Neil Black in the violin and oboe concerto. We also had, as a change from Corelli, the Christ, was *Concerto of Manfred*, less characteristic music, and things did not go quite smoothly in the pastoral movement, but there were happy echoes of folkly Italian *pifferi* and *zampogne*.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Abstraction at the Tate

Early in the New Year the Tate Gallery will be presenting *Abstraction: Towards a New Art*. This study of the development of abstraction in its early years, between about 1908 and 1921, will mainly be set around three artists, Kandinsky, Mondrian and Malevich. Other artists whose work will be on show include Robert Delaunay, Piet Mondrian, Wassily Kandinsky, Francis Picabia, Pablo Picasso, Braque and Léger. Futurists from Italy, Vorticists from England and Dadaists from Switzerland will be among the groups represented in this exhibition, which runs from February 6 to April 13.

Starting on April 16, the Tate will be showing work by Marcel Broodthaers, including pieces using eggshells, bottles and boxes as well as paintings on canvas and photographs. In May it will be staging an exhibition by the Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí.

A series of Irish visual arts exhibitions will be presented in London during February and March next year as part of the festival *A Sense of Ireland*. *The Delighted Eye*, showing the native influence on modern Irish art and sculpture, will be at the 52 Earlham Street Gallery, while *The International Connection*, showing the metropolitan influence, will be at the Round House Gallery.

Theo Waddington will be showing drawings and watercolours by Jack B. Yeats, and the Amely Juda Gallery will have new work by the abstract painter Patrick Scott.



Welsh National Opera opened their London season at the Dominion last night with Janacek's *The Makropoulos Case*. Elisabeth Söderström returned as Emilia Marty, the role she sang in Britain for the first time on the opening night of the production in Cardiff. Here she is seen with Thomas Hemsley and Helen Field.

Musgrave's spirit of Christmas present

It is strange that Dickens's perennial favourite story, *A Christmas Carol*, has not attracted more opera composers, for it is made to order for music. When Thea Musgrave was asked by the Virginia Opera Association (whose conductor and general director is her husband, Peter Mark) for a seasonal work, she produced an opera on the subject. Its world premiere in Norfolk, Virginia, became the occasion almost of a civic celebration, and it is gratifying to report that the opera presented warrants the buzz she received, and may well become a Christmas fixture.

Musgrave's opera is in two acts and 13 scenes, lasting just under two hours of music. She has craftily constructed the story (to her own adaptation of Dickens) so that the action is continuous, and the production can be done with a minimum of 12 singers (all but Scrooge doubling roles) and 15 instruments, with of course optional extras (such as a final children's chorus). The Virginia Opera's production increased the acting complement. Musgrave has made certain changes in Dickens's story. The three Christmas ghosts are mimed, by a single mute dancer. The opera ends, not as

the story on the day after Christmas, but with Scrooge and his nephew Fred's Christmas party, thus ensuring a grand choral upbeat finale: in order to do this, she moves Scrooge's scene with Cratchit (when he raises his salary and implicitly begs his forgiveness to before the party Scrooge runs. She also, for "operatic" purposes, enlarges certain other scenes, notably the one in which the young Scrooge loses his fiancée, Belle. This long duet closes the first act.

It must be said that, with the exception of the last scene, many of the changes Musgrave makes are unnecessary and weakening. Much of the beauty of Dickens's story lies in its economy of means, for in *A Christmas Carol* he knew how to write the most from the fewest words. Since *A Christmas Carol*'s value lies in the pace of its events and the vividness of its scenes rather than any subtlety of character, any such dilution, even for musical purposes, does not add to what has been given.

Cratchit's outburst against injustice after Tiny Tim's "death" gives us more than we need to know about him, to no advantage, for the poignancy of the moment. Finally

Scrooge's monologues, particularly the one after the grotesque vision of the division of his spoils after death (which Musgrave places after the Cratchit scene) is redundant. The events have shown us and shown Scrooge his errors.

Musgrave's music is expertly written, so that each scene has its own musical character through motifs and orchestration (e.g. the scene where Sister Fan rescues young Ebenezer from school is characterized by warm string sound, and the Fezziwig Christmas party by a clarinet). The Fezziwig party, moreover, uses a Musgrave fingerprint of dances; the Sir Roger de Coverley called for in Dickens, and also *Go To Bedrick, Johnnie* and *The White Cockade*. *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* heaves in and out of the opera, forms the basis of some counterpoint melodies and is sung by children's chorus at the close.

Magic, of course, was important to Dickens, and is very important in the opera. Much of the credit for the complex production (by David Farrar) must be given to the thoroughly rehearsed nature of the event. Wizardry took place on the cramped Virginia Opera stage, and even on the first night

everything worked. The only cavils I had with Farrar's staging were in allowing Scrooge as miser (in the first scene) to be too active—he should be icy cold and aloof—and in allowing the Ghost of Christmas Past to writhe about the stage like some sort of manic spider man.

The cast was throughout strong, and dominated by Frederick Burchinal's excellent Scrooge, who is onstage practically all evening. The sets and costumes brilliantly recreated the Dickensian world, and Peter Mark conducted with verve.

But perhaps the best feature of the event was the Dickensian mood surrounding it. It is not exaggerating to say that the many supporters of the Virginia Opera love Thea Musgrave—there will be seven performances of the opera, more than for their regular repertoire—so that the festivities around the premiere, including the children's chorus singing carols outside the opera house before the opera and during the intermission, duplicated the joyousness of the Fezziwig party onstage. God bless us, everyone—this was truly the spirit of the occasion.

Patrick J. Smith

THE TIMES

83% of Times readers have bank accounts. Over 75% of Times readers have current accounts and over 32% have deposit or savings accounts.

Alec McCowen "PERFORMANCE OF BRILLIANCE" Tishoo THEATRE

Christie's for jewellery

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Pair of emerald and diamond ear-pendants sold for Swf £50,000 (\$248,357).

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A POSSESSION NOT A PROMISE

The gold price is remarkable historically for its long-term stability and recently for its short-term instability. Every schoolboy knows that the gold standard was the by-product of the gold standard, that the gold standard was the by-product of the gold standard, that the gold standard was the by-product of the gold standard.

The purchasing power of gold is at present high by historic standards. At any rate, that is true in terms of the majority of commodities. However, the purchasing power of gold is not exceptional if measured in terms of labour cost or in terms of the price of oil. The recent movements of the gold price suggest that gold and oil prices have become closely linked at some stage between seventeen and nineteen barrels of oil to the ounce of gold.

Twelve-fold rise

It is not surprising that the gold price should respond to the oil price because both are commodities in limited supply. Gold, like oil, has probably passed the peak of its world production, and, unlike oil, it is a virtually indestructible commodity of which much the greater part that has ever been mined still survives. There is only a fixed amount of gold in the world, potentially available to be exchanged for oil; there is a potentially unlimited supply of currencies, and their value in terms of gold or oil has in most cases rapidly declined.

Since 1968 the price of gold in terms of dollars has risen by more than twelve times. At least that is one way of looking at it. Another way of looking at it is to say that the value of the dollar in terms of gold has fallen by more than twelve years. At the beginning of 1968 gold played only a minor part in the reserves of the central banks. As a result

of the increase in the price over half the value of all central bank reserves now consists of holdings of gold, including well over 90 per cent of the value of the central bank reserves of the United States. Apart from the proceeds of some swap agreements, gold is all they have.

It is perfectly possible that the gold price will again have a temporary fall at some point in the future as a result of world recession or of speculation boiling over. Yet the forces which have knocked the dollar down against gold are far stronger at the beginning of the 1980s than they were at the beginning of the 1970s. The world shortage of oil, the competition and the American industry, the rate of inflation in the United States, all undermine the dollar now in a way they did not ten years ago. It would be difficult to find any plausible argument for supposing that gold will weaken in dollar terms in the 1980s.

The oil factor

Other currencies, the D-mark, the Swiss franc and the yen are likely to be used to diversify the dollar content of world reserves, yet neither Germany, Switzerland nor Japan have any oil. In a world critically short of energy no non-oil currency can have more than marginal importance for reserve purposes. It seems likely therefore that gold's share of the value of world reserves will continue to rise in the next decade.

There is a division between the function of money as a store of value and its function as a vehicle for transactions. Graham's Law states that bad money drives out good, by which is meant that a man who has both bad and good money will keep the good and use the bad to settle transactions. In the 1980s gold is likely to remain the preferred store of value and the dollar the preferred currency of circulation. Central banks already treat gold as too valuable to sell, and faced with a shortage prefer to pledge their gold and borrow dollars rather than sell their gold.

The European Monetary System recognises that gold has again become the reserve base of the world monetary system. This is self-evidently a move to the advantage of the United States Treasury, despite the fact that the rise in the value of the gold reserve of the United States has been an immense benefit to the American economy. Without the United States gold reserves the dollar would have fallen even further.

It would be better if the United States and indeed the International Monetary Fund now officially accepted the reality of their

situation. Under the pressure of domestic inflation and of the world oil shortage, other people's paper currencies have ceased to be satisfactory as a security for the future. Independent national currencies may be held temporarily or for convenience, but it is no longer possible to make a realistic estimate of even their medium-term purchasing power. We have reason to expect that the purchasing power of the dollar in 1990 will be well below its purchasing power today. We may suspect that it will fall by at least 50 per cent, which would represent compound inflation at just over a seven per cent rate. We may fear that it will not fall by more than 75 per cent, which would be compound inflation at a 15 per cent rate. In holding dollars there is the certainty of loss, offset by the benefit of interest, but the scale of the potential loss is not predictable.

The American decision to block the Iranian dollar balances was not an unreasonable response to the threats of withdrawal of funds and the outrageous seizure of the American hostages, but it did take the process of decline further, it politicised the dollar. That decision made the dollar a reserve asset wholly conditional on the good will of the American government. Against the dollar gold has therefore two advantages. It is very unlikely that in 1990 the purchasing power of gold, which is scarce, will fall below its present level, and it is probable that it will be well above it. Gold also is not political; it is a possession and not a promise. A government which swans an ounce of gold does not have to ask the United States or anyone else for permission to cash it. Gold is a national reserve no other government can inflate and no two governments can block.

Two questions

The gold supply is finite; that is its monetary significance. The oil supply is finite; that is its economic significance. Gold has, by intrinsic qualities and against current theory, resumed the dominant reserve role. That is fact. There are, however, two questions. Can the gold base be engaged in the systems in such a way as to bring world inflationary expectations under control? The old gold standard achieved that down to 1914, for the reasons Ricardo gave. Gold loans naturally have low nominal and low real rates of interest. Gold has forced its way back in one of its traditional roles. Can we make use of it in other roles to help with other, apparently insoluble, world economic problems?

CAUTIOUS LIBERALIZATION IN BRAZIL

Brazil has changed but of all recognition in the past few years. It is remarkable, in a country which has been under military rule for fifteen years, which was in many ways a peace-keeper for other South American regimes of a similar sort, and which only recently had a reputation for particularly brutal repression, to have the President, himself a general, physically attacked by an angry crowd and say afterwards, "This disturbance proves that there is really democracy in Brazil." It may not be everyone's idea of democracy, but it does show that there have been changes in Brazil today strikes are tolerated, exiles of many years have been allowed to return, and new political parties are being formed, even though the legal requirements are making it difficult.

The rioting in Santa Catarina, where President Joao Baptista Figueiredo gave the state of emergency, was a sign that everything is far from well in the Brazilian economy. Inflation has been rising over the past year, and it is expected that it will soon reach 75 per cent. There are many millions of Brazilians who gained little or nothing from the "economic

miracle" of a few years ago, and they are beginning to make their protest heard. A recent blow has been an increase of some 58 per cent in the price of petrol, made necessary by Brazil's dependence on imported oil. It was followed by the decision made at the end of last week to devalue the cruzeiro by 30 per cent, which will also have inflationary effects, though it should help Brazilian exports. So the Brazilian regime is in a politically explosive situation, and it is clear that it is keeping a close watch on it as it pursues its policy of gradual liberalization in the political field.

The policy began under General Geisel, President Figueiredo's predecessor, but has only really gained momentum since President Figueiredo took office earlier this year. It is carefully thought out, with the aim of allowing a certain amount of protest and letting off of steam, but without enabling any serious threat to develop to the regime. It also requires skilful handling, because a middle way has to be steered between demands for greater liberalization and pressure from hard-liners in the armed forces, all too

eager to clamp down again if things seem to be getting out of hand. There seems no doubt that President Figueiredo and many of his closest advisers believe that there is no way back to the repressive policies of the past, because it would simply not be possible to contain the wave of protest which would result. But the going is beginning to get rough now, and Brazil is not being helped by international developments such as the rise in the price of oil.

Since it was first installed in 1964, the Brazilian military regime has achieved a great deal in building up the country so that it is now an important presence on the world scene. It has begun some imaginative programmes like the use of alcohol from sugar cane for fuel. But it has not solved the basic problem of how to distribute earnings more evenly to the whole population, and that is at the root of the current protests. It is therefore important that liberalization should continue further, so that other voices are heard in the decision-making process and that eventually the possibility of a transfer of power, to a coherent opposition, should be admitted.

Threat to local democracy

From Mr John Luff
Sir, I refer to your leader of December 4 on the draft bill. You rightly stress the point that local government is being freed from several detailed, relatively insignificant, controls but being progressively squeezed in a vice-like grip on policy matters in central governments—or should I say the Civil Service—endeavouring for it to become that up dog. No doubt even the most informed can see this blatant disregard for grass roots democracy.

What surprises me is your statement that the proposed "unitary" grant, which changes the basis of government aid to local authorities, does not strike at a council's freedom to choose its own level of rates. Of course, it does. It gives the central government the power to decide the level of any grant. It has regard to the local needs of the area and the council's awareness of the ratepayers' ability to pay for the services. This is why we have councils.

Now, by some magic, subjective formula, central government will tell us what the standard rate should be and what needs we have. This sounds fine, but when represented by single mathematical figures, it becomes very easy for people to believe that they are correct and that they do represent the needs and interests of the community.

by such diverse communities as say Islington and Somerset. It is not, as you say, that the council then tries to depart from the published standard, up or down, there will be howls of protest from some pressure group or other. This standardisation of the price we are all to pay to bring a few realists to local authorities into line.

What price concessions of calibre for the future? Does not responsible local government deserve a better fate than that with the effective responsibility of a jumped up parish council if some of these ill devised policy controls are implemented, brass tax democracy will bitterly regret the day.

JOHN LUFF
Chairman, Finance Committee,
Somerset County Council,
Taverton.

Defining freedom

From Mr Ian Crowther
Sir, While not warring in the least with the views of Lord Soames, I am of the opinion that the definition of freedom is not a simple matter. It is a complex one, and it is one which we ought not to will. We are free in so far as we set out our lives in accord with the ends appropriate to our nature. No more than a grain, a man is not free when he is off the rails. He is degraded.

at worst an obstacle to the progress of the human species. It is not, as you say, that anti-socialists should automatically welcome to their camp anyone who spouts the rhetoric of freedom; otherwise those of us who, like Levin, have been inspired by Solzhenitsyn, would have to be equally hospitable to the type of libertarian for whom freedom simply means freedom of behaviour.

Whatever else defines them, Gai Eaton and J. P. D. Bolton, from whose books Levin quotes, are united in seeing freedom as grounded in a natural law to which all men, rulers and ruled alike, owe their allegiance. This idea of natural law is not reducible to human behaviour as measured by scientific enquiry but looks instead to human ends and purposes which transcend our immediate psycho-physical cravings.

In Montesquieu's words, freedom "can consist only in the power of doing what we ought to will, and not being constrained to do what we ought not to will." We are free in so far as we set out our lives in accord with the ends appropriate to our nature. No more than a grain, a man is not free when he is off the rails. He is degraded.

Lord Soames in Salisbury

From Lord Caradon
Sir, I remember the story I heard years ago in Nigeria about the Governor's visit to a remote Nigerian town. The Governor went out to welcome him. The first said God save the Queen. Further along, the second said God bless the Governor. Further on, the third said God help the District Officer.

Now in Rhodesia, if they hang out the banner to welcome Lord Soames, they might well be: God save the Queen, God bless the Foreign Minister, God help the Governor.

I suggest that there are too many wise guys telling the world about the obvious dangers. I trust that there are far more ordinary people who feel that the world should be a better place than it is, and that there are plenty of good men and women who are not afraid of the risks of doing nothing.

We have for a long time had to put up with lack of bold initiative in international affairs—in the Middle East and Cyprus, for instance. Now we may hope that the Commonwealth and British initiative in Rhodesia will not only itself in the end succeed, but will also encourage brave endeavours to escape from dangers and disasters elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CARADON,
House of Lords,
December 11.

From Mr B. W. Budd, QC
Sir, It is greatly to be hoped that there will be no attempt to force through the Governor's visit to Rhodesia according to a rigid timetable, thereby ignoring the lessons of history. The last time this country sought to direct itself in its responsibilities in such a way, the result was internal conflict involving millions of lives.

I refer to the partition of the Indian sub-continent and the six weeks deadline for completion of this task. Sensitivity is not incompatible with determination.

I am sure that you will be, Sir, your most obedient servant,
B. W. BUDD,
3 Pump Court,
Temple, E.C.4,
December 10.

Britain's role in Iran

From Mr John Watkinson
Sir, It is extremely difficult to divine exactly what role Mr Temple-Morris (December 7) thinks that Britain has in Iran.

America is entitled to our fullest support in finding ways to obtain the release of the hostages; that is not in doubt. But we are to consider the longer-term role of the West and Britain in Iran, and simply won't do to brush under the carpet the excesses of the Shah, the horrors of Savak, and the blunders previously committed in Iran by the West.

If that is done there is a danger that the West will make exactly the mistake it made previously when the United States joined the Shah back on the Iranian people, and then found itself trapped into supporting one of the most corrupt and savage regimes in the Middle East.

Mr Temple-Morris in a most oblique way suggests that Britain should stand ready to back the forces of opposition to the Ayatollah. But it would be disastrous if we tied ourselves into a "Bay of Pigs mentality".

It really is time that we accepted in the West that the Middle East is not the playing of the West. We have interests there; but those interests are not protected by any further imperialist dreams. Countries in the Middle East must find their own solutions to their problems. There may be a role as honest brokers but it should not be further than that. And this does not mean that the Middle East will fall under the sway of Moscow. Recent history shows that Moscow has a miserable record in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WATKINSON,
50 Shoreditch Hill Road,
Blackheath, SE3,
December 7.

Prompt delivery

From Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowley
Sir, Today I took the necessary documents for the renewal of my car licence to the local post office. A very polite young man examined the documents and said: "Sir, I am sorry I cannot give you a new licence as you have not given me the reminder letter from the Vehicle Licensing Department."

"I have had no reminder letter," I replied. "This year I have remembered."

"I am sorry, Sir, but you must produce a reminder letter," he answered. "I suggest that the only thing for you to do is to write to the Vehicle Licensing Department reminding them to send you a reminder letter." Quid custodit?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COWLEY,
Whitmore,
Sandy Down,
Bulford,
Wiltshire, Hampshire 7.

Milking the dairy

From Mr Tom Hey
Sir, Long ago the blue tits and great tits learnt to peck through the milk-bottle tops on the walls of the dairy. But our milkmen, who are not so clever as the birds, have not yet learnt to do this. They have indeed the milk on their backs as the birds have on their backs, but they do not know how to get it off.

One wonders if any other of the later adaptations of these enterprising birds remain unrecorded.

Opening the closed shop

From Mr Jan Hildreth
Sir, Your leader on the Employment Bill (December 8) is welcome; it puts the role of our erring trade union movement in a calm perspective of productivity, and it places the Bill in its corner as the very little thing it is.

But where was the thunder so clearly demanded by your analysis? Surely, we must hesitate on the long but face up now to the monopoly power of our trade unions and the menace of the closed shop before this Government grows old and lush.

With a refreshing boldness, the Chancellor has already given back incentive to the individual to succeed, particularly in wealth-creation. This new stimulus should slowly permeate our society, recreating the robust attitudes to risk, profit and service to customers we need.

Unfortunately, public opinion in Britain has been alerted to the danger and seems to be moving rapidly ahead of Parliament and towards the European view of the trade unions.

Fortunately, also, reasonable solutions are available. One would be to permit the continued existence of a closed shop but to make its legality subject to a referendum in the trade union losing its power to reject or expel members during the currency of the closed shop agreement, and if the agreement establishing it being supported by an overwhelming majority at secret ballot and being valid for no more than, say, three years.

This would safeguard the individual and, at the same time, render the trade union properly accountable to its members. Perhaps the trade union to deal with "orderly" industrial relations would not be impaired. And the trade union would be assured of membership so long as it could retain the favour of its members.

A small show of leadership in industrial relations and this Government could not only right a major wrong but also secure its own future. Open the closed shop now before it closes down Britain's industry finally!

Yours faithfully,
JAN HILDRETH,
50 Ridgway Place,
Wimbledon, SW19.

Fees to overseas students

From Professor Max Rolloff FBA
Sir, In his lecture on overseas students fees (December, November 27) the vice-Chancellor of Southampton University wrote of "the steady decline in the capacity of the University Grants Committee to meet the needs of the universities" as though this was surprising. But it is at least 12 years since I pointed out in an article in *Minerva* that while the UGC system worked well with the central government, it was only marginal to university finance, this would no longer be the case when the universities were becoming wholly dependent on them, and when they represented an enormous drain on public expenditure. This view was ridiculed by the university establishment in the person of Lord Ashby and a couple of years ago Sir Frederick Dainton (then chairman of the UGC) assured an inter-university conference that in Britain, public funding and university autonomy had been successfully and permanently combined.

When the planning board for an independent university was set up in the late sixties it was clear that it was necessary to experiment with alternative methods of university finance, but the universities at large

continued to behave as though they could come on ever-increasing resources from central funds. Ironically, the members of the board were always being asked whether accepting private funds would not subject this college to external interference. At the end of my time as Principal, I can say that these fears have proved groundless. We have been perfectly free to make our own decisions including (inter alia) fixing identical fees for all students of whatever provenance.

Mr Roberts laments the lack of dialogue between the universities and successive governments. While we also go on hearing in the Shirley Williams era, we find the present ministers accessible and open-minded. Perhaps the vice-chancellors would get a better reception if they could convince the Government that they share its overriding concern for the economic health of the country and for the reform of the educational system, putting the accent on quality. To borrow a favourite phrase of the Prime Minister, if the universities want dialogue, let them first open their house in order.

Yours faithfully,
MAX ROLLOFF,
The University College
at Buckingham,
Buckingham.

to both claimant and defendant in the process. The Royal Commission on Civil Liability shied away from no fault compensation. The Patients Association acknowledges the difficulty of such a system would present, especially determining eligibility and the financial cost to the community at large, but we believe that the interests of patients and doctors alike demand that a determined effort should now be made to solve them.

The doctor would not feel compelled to fight the case in the interests of his professional reputation regardless of the circumstances of a particular case: the patient would not face daunting costs (only the very rich or the very poor can embark on a legal case through the courts) and the frustration of not being able to find medical witnesses in support of his case against their professional colleague. Doctors are not the only profession where dog is determined by the results for the claimant, and are likely to be more searching than in other cases.

Yours faithfully,
DAME ELIZABETH ACKROYD,
Chairman,
The Patients Association,
11 Dartmouth Street, SW1.

Damaged children

From Lord Allen of Abbeydale
Sir, As you rightly say (December 7), the recent majority judgement in the Court of Appeal draws attention to the proposal of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability for special treatment of all handicapped children, whatever the cause of their handicap.

The details of the Royal Commission's proposal are open to argument. But it is a high time that the Government announced a conclusion on the principle underlying the proposal. There is a wide gap in our present arrangements which ought to be filled in a comprehensive way such as ours.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN,
House of Lords,
December 8.

From Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd
Sir, The overturn in the Court of Appeal of the original award to a child born with brain damage high lights the need for a better procedure for dealing with cases of medical injury than a suit for damages, which rarely succeeds and causes mental and emotional agony

Taxing high pay increases

From Professor A. M. C. Waterman
Sir, Lord Kaldor may well be right in saying (December 5) that a general increase in indirect taxation would probably accelerate, rather than reduce the rate of wage inflation. But whether his own suggestion would do much better is another question.

The proposal to discourage high wage settlements by levying "a special tax on increases of income over the previous year" was first advanced by a colleague of mine at the University of Manitoba some ten years ago. After a brief discussion it was rejected by North American economists and policy makers for two reasons which, it would seem to me, are quite as likely to apply in Britain.

1. It would not work. "Trade union negotiators" and the workers they represent are not so easily deceived. If they know in advance that any increase in wages will be taxed at 50 per cent, they will demand twice as much as they would otherwise have done in order to achieve their target increase in real income. For many years now unions have very sensibly adjusted their nominal demands to allow for expected increases in the price level. No more sophistication is required to do the same with respect to an expected tax.

2. Even if it did work it would be inefficient, or unjust, or both. Unless patterns of demand and relative costs of production remain unchanged from one period to the next, it is desirable that relative prices, including relative labour prices, should be allowed to change in a manner that induces the appropriate reallocation of resources. The efficient working of a market economy may well require that some time that workers in a particular industry should receive a wage increase larger than Lord Kaldor's 2 per cent. For those who believe that Britain can afford to ignore the University of Sussex, Arts Building, Falmer, Brighton, December 5.

Labour Party objectives
From Mr John Lee
Sir, Bryan Magee (December 8), a thoughtful and serious-minded MP, and others who think like him seem entitled to wonder just why the Labour Party came to be a government party. This happened basically for two reasons: firstly because in the years before the turn of the century, the Liberal Party ignored the political aspirations of working class people. Secondly, because the Liberal Party, despite the undoubted radicalism that is manifested in many fields, shrank in power from the scale of government intervention in the economy (necessarily including much nationalization) without which real, and permanent, social justice is not possible.

Since 1918 the Labour Party has been unambiguously committed to public ownership; and anyone joining it must know this. There may, and indeed certainly should, be arguments within the party about the correct speed at which this can be done. There can be none about the objectives of the party. It is a party which has settled long ago.

Yours etc,
JOHN LEE,
75 Palewell Park, SW14,
December 6.

The last goodbye

From Group Captain R. B. Ward
Sir, With regard to Mr Mansbridge's letter of yesterday's *Times* (December 4), I have a card which has been going backwards and forwards between us and great friends, since 1957. It has been to Peru, Rangoon, Moscow, Cuba twice, and is now between Fairlight and Odium. The postage now costs a good deal more than the original card did.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. WARD,
Stoneyhill Farm,
Fairlight,
Hastings,
East Sussex.

No change

From Mr John Witt
Sir, I read in your article of December 7 on the new Post Office payphones that these new devices would not necessarily be able to give back the correct change. The reason the Post Office gave was that no successful change-giving machines have been invented.

I would like to dispute this, as on recent trips to Switzerland I have come across tram fare machines and also machines in car parks which were successful in giving back the right change.

If the Swiss can do it, why cannot we?

Yours faithfully,
JOHAN WITT,
Astor College,
Charlotte Street, W1.

God's messenger

From Mr Peter Nichols
Sir, So God chose Mozart to speak to Man? No wonder. He's not getting through. He might have done better with Mantovani, better still with Herb Alpert and his Tijuana Brass (51 million copies sold).

Or is God only for Tmp People? Yours truly,
PETER NICHOLS,
60 Albert Street, NW1.

From Mr G. A. Elwes
Sir, Of course no one would refuse the Church its right and duty in its clarifying and protective role in matters of dogma—what is being now questioned is its manner. John Bull (the stranger to *The Times*) has always been uneasy in the face of a continental-style judgment by secular tribunal, and had a "weakness" for "fairplay".

Yours etc,
G. A. ELWES,
Wentworth Manor,
Gouldford,
Surrey,
December 5.

Nor did I sign with any thought of natural justice. That virtue, which evidently has some popularity now among professors as well as



Prime rate rises to 19.5pc in Italy

Italy's prime rate has been raised by three points to 19.5 per cent, after last Wednesday's increase in the discount rate from 12 to 15 per cent.

At the same time, the Italian Banking Association widened the differential with interest paid on current and deposit accounts.

In a move expected to arouse protests from account holders, it announced an increase of only 75 per cent to take effect on January 1. The maximum payable on large accounts will now be 11.5 per cent.

ENI finds gasfield
ENI, the Italian state hydrocarbons corporation, has announced the discovery of a commercial gasfield, named Port Corsini, 80 miles off Ravenna in the northern Adriatic. The field is expected to yield over 300 million cubic metres of methane a year.

Toronto plant closed
Pilkington Glass Industries is closing one of its two Toronto plants permanently, which will put 400 employees out of work. The closing comes after a 16-week strike which cost the company \$C16m (about £5.5m).

Jobless rate steady
There were 76,000 unemployed in Sweden last November, 1.8 per cent of the total labour force of 4.29 million, says the Central Bureau of Statistics. This is largely unchanged from last October when the figure was 78,000.

European currency
The European Economic Community commission is proposing to use the ECU (European Currency Unit) for all community activities.

Bankruptcies up
Japanese corporate bankruptcies in November increased to 1,682, up 11 per cent from 1,515 in October and up 13.4 per cent from 1,483 in the like year-earlier month, according to a private corporate credit inquiry agency, Taiyoku Koshinsho.

Establishment of new union unlikely to avert fight over membership

Stage set for bank staffs recruitment war

The decision by the staff associations of three major London clearing banks to merge and form their own union brings into sharp relief the philosophical differences between them and the main TUC-affiliated union in the industry.

Industrial relations in the banking industry have been chaotic since the striking Insurance and Finance Union (formerly NUBF) abandoned joint negotiating some two years ago in protest at the lack of movement towards establishing a single union.

BIFU, as a member of the TUC, is interested in recruiting as many members as possible from the staff associations at Barclays, National Westminster and Lloyds.

The announcement on Monday that the associations had decided to merge to form a new Clearing Banks Union, with 93,000 members, is an attempt to forestall a recruitment war in banking and finance between BIFU and Mr. Clive Jenkins's Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS).

The staff associations have been reluctant to affiliate to the TUC, although they were prepared to do so if BIFU had been ready to accept its entirety the second report by Dr. Tom Johnston, which proposed the creation of a new TUC-affiliated union for the whole of the banking, insurance and finance field.

Dr. Johnston, who has been trying to unravel the complicated union scene was insistent that a new union could work only if it was affiliated to the TUC.

This gives rise to scepticism in banking circles that a new Clearing Banks Union which obviously could not be affiliated is unlikely to have long before it is picked off by the TUC unions.

There is also disagreement on what form a new umbrella union for the industry would take. The associations wanted to see a federal structure with strong in-house representation, which would receive its own income and be affiliated to a clearing banks union. BIFU wanted a more unitary structure with policy autonomy at different levels.

The staff associations were prepared to accept in full the second Johnston report, drawn up in October. However, BIFU wanted to set up working parties to examine questions of detail, while accepting the six major principles embodied in the report.

To the staff associations examination of detail meant renegotiation and while they may, as a last resort, have been prepared to go along with this, as a "gesture of goodwill" they asked BIFU to rejoin joint negotiating machinery, which BIFU refused.

The stage now appears to have been set for BIFU and ASTMS, which has a significant membership in the Midland Bank, to fight each other over the staff associations, with the possible outcome that the two unions may each pick up one of the associations, with the third finding solace wherever it can.

Meanwhile the luckier bank of them all is Williams and Glyn's, which negotiates only with BIFU and is the envy of the world of finance.

David Felton

Yesterday Mr. Harry Hornsby, director-general of the Process Plant Association, said that these harsh criticisms were followed by allegations of conflict between clients, contractors and suppliers in Britain. These are denied by the association.

Mr. Hornsby said: "I have spoken to BP and they have not been prepared to identify the projects or the suppliers to enable us to investigate the complaints and the reasons behind them. It is not, therefore, possible to arrive at anything constructive out of this statement."

Plant makers have been stung by what they describe as a "public onslaught" and "thrashing" from an executive of BP Chemicals, who complained about their delivery performance in general and its performance on five projects worth more than £3m in particular.

orders. Today, senior members of three of the industry's leading fabricating companies; Northern Engineering Industries, Babcock International, and Davy, will be meeting Sir Keith Joseph to discuss prospects.

main the men's attitude is extremely encouraging. "We are offering a fair reward for more productivity; for instance the men at Ryton could get another £5 a week. But this is not just a question of money. The all-important issue is the men's attitude to their work."

"They should be asking themselves 'Is the job worth having and if it is they should prove it by earning more money under the incentive scheme we have put to them'."

Mr. Turnbull added that he made it absolutely clear that there would be no money productivity deals. Chrysler, which is being renamed Talbot next month, will sell about 150,000 cars in Britain, about one-third of them imported from Chrysler's French, Spanish and Irish plants.

Mr. Turnbull is setting his

sights on 200,000 a year and would like to assemble a far bigger proportion in the United Kingdom. "We ought to be good for £30m a year profit, although it may take a year or two. On the other hand it must be made absolutely clear to everyone in this company that Peugeot Citroen will not invest good money after bad and if they pull the plug out we shall go down the sink," he said.

Shaking Ships: Sir Barrie Heath, president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and chairman of GKN, said last night that clinging to outdated manufacturing processes and manning levels in the British motor industry was like clinging to a sinking ship.

The keys to future prosperity were improvements in productivity and labour relations, he told the BMMT annual banquet in London.

Aston may make offer for MG cars

By Edward Townsend

Aston Martin Lagonda, the leader of the consortium, is investigating the purchase from BL of its MG cars subsidiary, could be making an offer within the next few weeks.

The consortium has held discussions with BL executives and it has been given access to financial and other data on the MG operation at Abingdon.

Aston Martin said the talks had been "of a meaningful nature". Considerable progress had been made but it was considered premature for either party to make a public statement.

"The next key point will be very early in the new year when we have assimilated and analysed the information to determine our stance."

The possibility of the purchase became more uncertain this week when BL's Austin Morris announced that the Cowley-based export packing department would be switched to Abingdon and that a specialised vehicle unit would be established at the MG factory. All the buildings at the MG site would be used.

Although the consortium has been investigating possible factory sites for building MG cars, it would be most interested in a "deal" which included takeover of the Abingdon plant.

Aston Martin discounted suggestions that the Massy-Ferguson factory at Kilmarnock in Scotland, which is to close in February, could be the new home for MG sports cars. The company said the factory was the subject of "a whole host of options" considered before discussions with BL reached a decided stage.

The M-F plant, which has a workforce of 1,500, is to close after a decision to switch harvester production to France. The plant is modern and has a "good industrial relations" record.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Level of investment in housing

From Mr. Norman Griggs

Sir, Mr. D. S. Robertson (December 5) attributes under-investment in industry to the high level of owner-occupation in Britain but there is no real connection between the two. Mr. Robertson is right in pointing out that the proportion of owner-occupation is lower in West Germany, France and Holland than it is in Britain though he is wrong in claiming that this is also the case in Denmark. However, the United States and Canada both have a much higher level of owner-occupation than in this country but they do not have our poor industrial record.

It may be that the proportion of personal wealth held in the form of housing has increased but this has not been at the expense of industrial investment. Most of the activity in the housing market relates to secondhand dwellings and this does not entail the consumption of resources. In fact, the

proportion of gross domestic product devoted to housing in Britain is lower than in most other advanced countries and all the evidence submitted to the Wilson Committee demonstrated that the problem facing industry has not been lack of capital but rather lack of profitable investment opportunities.

Certainly, industrial investment is vital but before advocating policies to increase it one must get the nature of the problem right.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN GRIGGS,
Secretary General,
The Building Societies Association,
34 Park Street,
Manchester,
London, W1V 3PF.

Industrial investment is not determined by availability of funds as Mr. Robertson implies, but on the will of industry to invest—and there are plenty of funds available for this purpose (pension funds, banks, insurance companies, etc.).

Britain's poor performance is simply the result of firms' expectations of an insufficient return—hence the trade union accusation of an "investment strike".

The only effect of Mr. Robertson's "housing remedies" will be to provide even more money to the city money pool and so cause the rate of interest to fall—but, as Keynes argued, the rate of interest has only a very marginal effect on investment and this has subsequently been borne out by experience.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. TOWNLEY,
2 Fairview,
Putney Hill,
London SW15.

Training skilled workers and job prospects

From Mr. J. D. Rimington

Sir, I can follow your correspondence Mr. R. S. Musgrave (November 30) when he suggests that housing training can be an inefficient way of meeting a skills shortage problem and also that employers looking in a hurry for skilled labour are always likely to miss the best candidates. If there are vacancies registered with the public employment service, good skilled workers are also good workers and in many parts of the country will leave their trade rather than remain unemployed for long.

However, on a point of fact raised by Mr. Musgrave, it is no longer true that half of Slough's trainees are not doing jobs using their skills some months following training. The only regular series of figures is for a three-month

period after training: at present some 70 per cent of ex-trainees are in jobs using their skills at that point. This figure is probably conservative because some leave for jobs before completing training and so escape the survey. It is of course no average as between areas where results are much better than this and areas where job prospects are so poor that some of the training we are under acute local pressure to offer can, alas, be of only limited benefit either to individuals or to the local economy.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. RIMINGTON,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Massachusetts Services Commission,
Ebony Bridge House,
Ebony Bridge Road,
London SW1W 8PY.

Dangers the new NEB must avoid

From The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Kinnoull

Sir, We now learn from Sir Peter Carey's evidence to the Commons Public Accounts Committee that not only had the recently-resigned members of the NEB been blown off course on their way to obtaining their financial objectives, but that they were also reluctant to divulge to the Department of Industry information about companies in their care.

Where have we heard this before? Were not weaknesses in financial control and reluctance to co-operate the principal allegations by Sir Leslie Murphy against Sir Kenneth Keith?

May one express with confidence the hope that under financial control and reluctance to co-operate the principal allegations by Sir Leslie Murphy against Sir Kenneth Keith?

Sincerely,
KINNOUNLL,
House of Commons,
London, SW1,
Dec 6.

Bad stamp planning?

From Mr. Alice Hemming
Sir, Every year the Post Office urges us to post our overseas letters early, so every year we have to get our far-away greetings off with an ordinary stamp; the handsome specially issued Christmas stamps always come out long after the allotted date. Bad planning? What a pity!
Yours,
ALICE HEMMING,
35 Elmwood Road,
NW3 3BT.

ICGas

Imperial Continental Gas Association

Consolidated Results (unaudited)	Half year to	Half year to	Year to
	30.9.79	30.9.78	31.3.79
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Turnover	82,837	67,335	187,720
Trading Profit	6,589	6,456	28,478
Depreciation	(6,540)	(5,487)	(11,369)
	49	969	17,108
Income from Allied Companies	—	—	4,884
Share of profits of Associated Companies	4,174	3,090	10,812
Income from General Investments	410	803	1,207
Interest (net)	722	(300)	(424)
Group Results before taxation	5,355	4,562	33,388
Taxation	801	761	9,305
Group Results after taxation	4,554	3,801	24,083
Minority Interests	(17)	(138)	(381)
Exchange Loss	—	—	(257)
Results attributable to IC Gas	4,537	3,663	23,445

Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March 1980 of 8p per £1 stock unit on the £42,873,000 ordinary capital stock, costing £3,430,000, payable 15th February 1980. An interim dividend of 8p per stock unit, together with a supplementary dividend of 0.088p per stock unit, was paid on 20th March 1979 on £41,546,000 ordinary capital stock costing £2,530,000. Stockholders will recall that, as a result of the lifting of dividend restraint from 1st August 1979, last year's rate of final dividend was double the rate of interim dividend. The increase in this year's interim dividend is intended to reduce the disparity between the interim and final dividends.

Consolidation of Accounts

The Association published fully consolidated accounts for the first time for the year 1978/79. In spite of this change, it is not possible to include in "Share of profits of Associated Companies" in the Interim Results figures in respect of UNERG, a public quoted company, which publishes its results annually. The comparative figures for the half year to 30th September 1978, have been restated on the basis applied in the current year.

Results for the Half Year

As in previous years, the Directors emphasize that the figures provide no guidance concerning the outcome for the year. In addition to the seasonal nature of the Group's activities, the results of UNERG, through which a major part of the utility interests of the Group is held, are excluded. Furthermore, no dividend income from Petrofina and Intercom is included in the first half year.

Turnover

Of the increase in turnover of £15,502,000, the Color Group accounted for £14,727,000 (+25.3%) and the Belgian subsidiary companies' trading activities accounted for £1,268,000 (+15.9%).

Color Group

The trading profit showed an increase of 13.8% on the previous year. The lower ratio of profit to turnover at the half year was again due to increased fixed costs in a highly seasonal business and pressure on gross margins arising from further increases in product costs, which could not be immediately recouped by increased prices or improved productivity. Depreciation continued its rise to £5,552,000, an increase of 16.6% over the previous year, reflecting the high level of capital expenditure necessary to meet growth in demand.

Century Power and Light Ltd.

Trading profits for the period, at £439,000, were down on the previous year by £97,000, after a decline in sales of gas.

Belgian Group

The results of the direct trading activities of the Belgian Group, less administration charges, were £47,000 down at £1,252,000. Depreciation amounted to £837,000, an increase of £271,000.

Associated Companies

The share of profits of associated companies, which was higher by £1,084,000, relates to the results to 30th June, and underlines the sensitivity to climatic conditions, the results benefiting from the extreme conditions in the first quarter of 1979.

A holding company in the fuel and power industries

Copies of the Full Interim Statement can be obtained from HBI Samuel Register, Ltd., 6 Greenport Place, London SW1P 1PL.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Straws in the wind

Yesterday's November banking figures were very bit as bad as expected. The banks' liabilities rose by 1.9 per cent on a month; the banking system as a whole as further out of the target than at any time to date; and the figures from the clearing banks confirmed that loan demand remained uncomfortably strong.

Yet for all that there were still straws to be clutched at. For a start, it seems that Thursday's figures for sterling M3 will be anything like as bad as the eligible liability figures might suggest. Indeed, as a result of a number of factors—namely, the clearing banks' transactions with discount houses, the rise in non-resident sterling deposits and a change in the banks' netted position—growth in sterling M3 is likely to be only a half per cent, and that would bring an annualized rate of growth since June from nearly 14 per cent to under 13 per cent. More important, of course, is the fact that a mid-November rise in interest rates had real chance to bite. The impact of that is still to work its way through and may require several months' patience. Even so, the rise in lending in November was clearly well below the October surge and a figure for the three months to November suggests some fall in the rate of quarterly increase.

In the gilt market, buyers were already five ahead of yesterday. Afternoon's movement of the banking figures on the view that the market had already discounted more pessimistic expectations. So, given an indication of relatively acceptable sterling M3 growth the market continued to better through the afternoon, with further help coming from rather better than expected figures for the central government borrowing requirement in November. All this was enough for the short-medium end of the market to be declared exhausted at the close. Neither or not the authorities will be keen to push a new surge into the market ahead of the holidays, remains to be seen. Clearly, any want to hold interest rates around their present level until they have firm evidence that their medicine is working.

Raising a hoary old problem—but one which has still to be satisfactorily resolved—Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, hinted that institutional investors last night if they invest in a company they cannot also some responsibility for its success or failure.

Institutions, despite much debate over the years, have always argued that as investors they are not qualified to interfere in the management of the companies in which they invest, and that the sanction which they can employ most effectively is to sell the shares they don't like. As a company's performance, as Sir Geoffrey said, selling leaves some else with the problem and the institution with a loss.

It would be better if institutions took a more positive action and used their influence to appoint a non-executive director whose experience and judgement they could trust. Some institutions would do this as this is just another suggestion from someone who fails to understand the problems, but those "problems" are pining to look like excuses.

Gas North Sea potential

usual, half-time figures from I.C. Gas are a guide to nothing in particular—except, perhaps, to the impact of rising fixed costs on a relatively low level of sales. Trading profits of Calor Gas have risen by only 13.8 per cent, as against a 25.3 per cent rise in turnover; and at the pre-tax level this disparity shows a loss of £19.7m (as against a £16.2m in the corresponding period of 1978) after depreciation provisions and interest charges.

to the group as a whole, after a £1.2m rise to £4.17m in the combination from October, has produced pre-tax profits of £4.0m higher, at £5.35m, as against the £3.9m recorded in the whole of last year. Second-year figures will show the benefits of the usual seasonal surge in calor sales (20 per cent up, so far this quarter, volume for the same period last year), second, of the price rise planned for January, which should help to offset the

squeeze on margins apparent in the first half figures. In addition there are contributions from the associate UNERG, and dividends from Petrofina and Intercom, to be brought in. So the pre-tax total overall is likely to be in excess of £35m.

Longer-term, Calor Gas is hoping for improved performance from an increase in gas supplies; and the group as a whole stands to benefit from its North Sea oil ventures in the Maureen, Andrew and Block 1 fields. Meantime the shares, at £15.50, will yield 4.6p on a maintained final dividend. They are solid enough anyway, and could prove exciting if the North Sea throws up riches.

Trafalgar House Searching for new growth

Trafalgar House has gone ex-growth, although profits, down to £43.7m against last year's £60.6m, are actually 5 per cent ahead of £19m of exceptional property and share profits are excluded from the 1978 figure.

Nevertheless, Trafalgar has stood still for three years with its four main trading engines failing to synchronize.

For the moment it has neither the share rating or the balance sheet to do anything dramatic on the takeover front, so it has had to take a cool look at the four existing trading divisions for the next leap forward. Judging by the heavy move into property development, the group clearly sees this activity as at least the short-term solution. Contracting and building continues to fare remarkably well with profits up 17 per cent to £26m. But despite the quality of some of its contracts, there could be pressure, particularly on the civil engineering side, next year.

Shipping, aviation and hotels saw some recovery in the second-half reducing the loss to £5.7m with better performances on the cargo side. Newspapers meanwhile have done well. Profits have increased slightly to £6.6m after charging some £2.8m of start-up costs on the Daily Star and Financial Weekly. However, the Sunday Express and specialist titles are still making running although Daily Express losses have been reduced. That trend must be in doubt next year as the newspaper business runs into recession.

Property, then, which, chipped in £15.4m against last year's heavily inflated £22m, should contribute strongly next year given low physical property yields and signs of an improvement in office letting and rentals. Indeed, sale of the Whitbread complex alone could transform next year's results. But with the shares up to 56p offering a p/e of 6 and yielding 11.6 per cent, the market does not need reminding that Trafalgar is now more than a property company.

Serck Cuts the dividend

It has been rough for Serck, the Birmingham process and power engineering company; profits slumped from £5.15m to £1.6m, last year and the final dividend is cut from 6.5p to 1.7p, making 4.9p for the year against 9.6p.

Serck had to close the loss-making Serck Tubes. Together with reorganization at the Heat Transfer and Valve companies, this cost £3.1m. National engineering and transport strikes and internal labour problems following the end of wage controls cost £2.5m, and borrowing rose from £4.3m to £11.5m, and are still growing, uncomfortable when interest rates are at an all-time peak.

Serck's business is closely tied to overseas demand for process engineering equipment, particularly in the Middle East and to power engineering at home. Orders have picked up and given loss-alleviation last year profits could recover to around £5m, but the dividend is not likely to be restored so soon.

That said the market was expecting more yesterday. The shares gained 2p to 40p, where they yield about 12 per cent, enough to be going on with particularly as the chances of another bid must be on the cards.

Christopher Wilkins examines a change of direction in international lending

Upheaval in the Eurocurrency markets

EURO LENDING—HOW THE MARGINS HAVE SHRUNK

	1976	1977	1978	1979
%	%	%	%	%
Algeria	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brazil	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
France	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Hungary	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2

Margins over London Interbank offered for seven years: 1 for 10 years.

The Eurocurrency markets are undergoing a more wide-ranging upheaval than at any time since the collapse of Herstatt Bank in 1974. The beneficiaries will be the borrowers. The losers will be the lenders. The question is whether, in contrast to the post-1974 period, the banks' "victory" will turn out to be a totally hollow affair.

Iran is not, in itself, the prime cause of the upheaval, except in the sense that the events since the Shah's fall have played a vital role in the Opec price increases of the past year. Rather, the financial war raging between the United States and Iran is providing the same kind of trigger as Herstatt provided five years ago. The conditions had already been created for an abrupt change of direction before the taking of the hostages.

The change which is underway will be seen by many bankers as a move back towards sanity in the international lending markets. Since mid-1976, by which time the scale of the Herstatt collapse and the consequent fear of more widespread bank failures had died down, the profitability of Eurocurrency lending has been steadily contracting.

Expansive monetary policies and a growing American trade deficit fuelled the dollar liquidity of the international banking system. At the same time, levels of borrowing demand in the developed world prompted growth-inclined banks to seek new opportunities in international—especially Third World—markets, rather than at home.

The result was a borrower's market, and the borrowers took full advantage. The decline of the Opec surpluses (until this

year), meant fewer balance of payments crises among developing countries and improving credit worthiness. International borrowing soared from about \$21,000m in 1975 to some \$70,000m in 1978. This year it will be around \$80,000m.

The main symptom of the borrowers' supremacy was the increasing willingness of the banks to concede longer maturity loans—commonly 10 to 15 years rather than five to seven—and to accept progressively lower profit margins over their own cost of money (see table). By the middle of this year, margins had sunk to the point where the finest rate credits produced barely any profit at all.

All of this is now changing. The transformation is, perhaps, less sudden than it was at the time of Herstatt, but the evidence of a new mood is more than clear. In some cases, lending margins have already risen. In others banks are proving reluctant to commit themselves on the same scale or at the same speed as three months ago.

The talk of possible default, or at least of unavoidable debt rescheduling, by important borrowers is again being heard.

This time it is Brazil and Poland whereas in 1974/5 it was Indonesia and Argentina. Meanwhile, the Japanese banks, an important lending force, have been virtually pulled out of the markets by a ministry of finance concerned over mismatching of deposits and loans and possible future dollar funding problems.

Underlying the swing from a borrower's to a lender's market is the financial and economic imbalance resulting from much higher oil prices. Morgan Guaranty Trust has forecast an Opec surplus of \$55,000m this year compared to a mere \$7,000m in 1978. The brunt of this will be borne by the developed world, but the deficit of the underdeveloped world—some \$30,000m last year—is projected to rise to more than \$40,000m this year.

Next year it should top \$50,000m and possibly more if oil prices go up further, as seems likely. Inflation rates will rise and economic growth rates will fall.

The result, of course, will be a much bigger borrowing requirement and a much reduced capacity to repay existing debt as it falls due. The problem is aggravated by the steep rise in absolute dollar rates.

Most Eurocurrency loans are made on a floating rate basis, and the recent efforts by the United States Federal Reserve Board (Fed) to limit monetary growth through a policy of high interest rates, inevitably means an onerous additional debt-servicing requirement. For example, a 1 per cent rise in dollar interest rates is estimated to add \$500m to Brazil's annual payments bill. United States prime rates are now 3 1/2 per cent higher than they were a year ago.

For lending banks, all the old assumptions on credit worthiness are having to be scrapped. The risk implicit in international loans has plainly risen and with it the demand of the banks for a commensurate return.

At the same time, the need of the banks for international funds is diminishing. In the United States, domestic loan demand has this year been running at a record level. Elsewhere it has been more sluggish, but for most banks, especially those with a big base of cheap or free current account deposits, high interest rates, in any case, equate with high profitability. In such conditions, low margin wholesale operations as characterised by Eurocurrency lending, become less and less attractive.

Iran has added a new uncertainty, raising questions about the dollar's future and undermining previous assumptions about the independence of the Eurocurrency market from political influences—a fundamental basis for the market's existence.

But the real concern among bankers now is whether they will be able to fulfil in the early eighties the same role

they undertook in the mid-seventies. So far, the banking system has been heavily relied upon to funnel the Opec surpluses back to the deficit nations in the form of loans. Given the scale of those surpluses, the banks will be required to expand their deposit-taking and lending capability sharply in the coming years, much as they have in the past five years.

In the first place, as already noted, they may not be willing to do so. In the second, they are likely to face increasing constraints from central banks around the world which are concerned over the untrammelled scope for credit creation in the Euromarkets.

The possible controls under discussion in Basel may take the form of reserve requirements on Eurocurrency or simply of prudential controls exercised through some form of capital ratio.

Unquestionably, however, those banks which have amassed their international business independently from their parent bank balance sheets will be obliged to conform more closely to some consolidated group concept for supervisory purposes. The implication is that balance sheets and, therefore, lending will be limited by the growth of the banks own capital. Here is the core of the problem.

If the banks are not making sufficient profits to enable them to grow fast enough to satisfy the borrowing requirement of deficit countries, the only way to be thrust back on the international organizations. Hence the renewed debate about how the IMF, the World Bank and so on can fill the void that seems inevitably to be looming.

Oliver Stanley

Capital taxes: how much room for manoeuvre



Lord Cockfield: a difficult man to convince.

Last June, in his first Budget, the Chancellor showed a capacity for fiscal innovation which surprised even his colleagues. He cut the basic rate of income tax by 3p and the top rate from 63 per cent to 60 per cent, and he generally raised thresholds, giving away £4,300m.

He also announced a "thorough review" of capital taxes to implement his election promise to make them simpler and less oppressive. Lord Cockfield, Treasury minister of state, was given the task of producing legislation in the 1980 Finance Bill to reduce the period of uncertainty generated by knowledge that the system was to be relaxed.

Since 1976 Sir Geoffrey Howe has been saying that he wants to draw the teeth of capital transfer tax (CTT) because it inhibits the creation and development of new small businesses. According to his creed, capital taxes represent a disincentive to save, work and invest.

Tories must be expected to oppose forms of taxation devised explicitly to redistribute wealth—to make the proverbial pipe squeak. So one prophecy is that CTT and capital gains tax (CGT) will be abolished in the April Finance Bill, creating a free-for-all in the reduction of risk for richer-than-it might be in other hands.

In any case—the argument runs—abolition of exchange control makes capital taxes so easy to avoid as to make them no longer worth retaining. The critical gift to you and he will be passed through the conduit of a numbered Swiss account and what the eye does will not mind.

On June 12 the Chancellor said: "People want to build up capital of their own and pass it on to their children... Now they are allowed to do so in the

currency of Swiss francs or Deutsche marks, that which, say the cynics, no better incentive can be conceived.

In fact, that represents a complete misunderstanding of the government view. In *The Right Approach* of 1976 the then Conservative opposition said: "We would not think it right to remove all restraints on the aggregation and transmission of substantial wealth. It is no part of our aims to encourage the concentration of the country's assets in fewer and fewer hands."

This is the gospel according to Sir Geoffrey, which Lord Cockfield has been preaching at his series of meetings with national representative bodies.

Lord Cockfield, the Confederation of British Industry, Institute of Directors, National Farmers' Union, County Landowners' Association, the professional institutions—have put forward detailed submissions on the behalf of their members, earnestly pleading for relief. It is a tribute to the minister's stamina he has not disappeared under mountain of paper.

Lord Cockfield is a difficult man to convince and he can destroy a facile case with ease. He believes in the principle "Consult first, draft the new law afterwards," so the 1980 Finance Bill debate should be a year of discussion and intellectual rather than political warfare.

The representations made to him on capital taxes disclose a uniformity of outlook in business opinion: the capital transfer tax threshold is too low and the rate scale goes up too steeply to too high a maximum rate. A threshold of £50,000 seems sensible, the value of a comfortable—but not a luxury house. A top marginal rate of 50 per cent at the £3m mark is favoured by the CBI, and this seems a likely profile.

Trusts and trustees have been harshly treated for CTT and it is argued that the attempt to

treat them as mere tax shelters should cease.

On capital gains tax the central problem is inflation. Two alternative solutions have been canvassed—indexation (adjustment in line with, say, a price index) and tapering, a progressive reduction of the chargeable gain over a stipulated period, perhaps, three years (Institute of Directors) or seven years (CBI).

The minister's preliminary and tentative conclusion is that indexation is administratively too complex, particularly for stock exchange securities; and tapering is too crude and does not solve the problem.

Another popular prayer is for more roll-over relief—that is, deferral of liability until sale

of the asset replacing the one sold. Double liability on gifts to CTT and CGT—should be eliminated and, anyway, the rate of 30 per cent is surely too high.

Some representations are extraordinarily detailed. The Unquoted Companies Group (21 members who provide a playground for 171,000 people) lists twenty-five different changes needed, the first 10 of which are extracted verbatim from a letter written by Sir Geoffrey Howe (in Opposition) to Mr Denis Healey (then Chancellor) dated April 2, 1975.

That letter renewed the Conservative pledge to "repeal" capital transfer tax, but that was a long time ago.

The chairman of the Unquoted Companies Group, Sir

Emmanuel Kay, cites Canada and Australia as precedents for abolition of capital taxes. He says that in those countries abolition was little criticized and, in particular, there was little public controversy in Australia, a country with a strong trade union movement and a major Labour Party.

Presumably, he had not read the TUC submission to Lord Cockfield, which calls for stronger CTT and, of course, an annual wealth tax.

Lord Cockfield will not recommend abolition, both for reasons of philosophy—the need for "restraints"—and on yield grounds. Capital taxes, he declares, yield £2,000m and government has no scope for such reductions. The yields of CTT and CGT—respectively £400m and £600m—are low enough to represent constraints on further reduction, for it is uneconomic to reduce taxes to levels which make the tax costly to collect.

What of development land tax? Lord Cockfield says that all that is to be done has been done. On inheritance tax, there is a long-term aim to harmonise with Europe, but the Green paper, Lord Cockfield produced under Lord Barber was unenthusiastically received, as he himself conceded.

Finally, there are the wider issues. If next April increased income taxes are needed as a defence against inflation, then that will hardly be the moment to abolish or reduce capital taxes.

All in all, it does seem that the Government has left itself with little room for manoeuvre and the various constraints may limit changes to the thresholds, rates and technical adjustments designed to simplify and draw the tax. Abolition is not in prospect.

Business Diary: Scotch thistle • Driving a hard bargain

are dusting off an oldish toast, "Confusion to the victor," in the Scotch whisky. It is my conversation with Combe yesterday is saying to go by.

Combs is the managing director of a lively British distillers, Long John International, as well as a board member and public spokesman for the industry's pressure group, Scotch Whisky Association, and, many others in this big British export industry, fed up with the French allying Scotch imports to their own cognac.

February 1, the French to slap another five francs a bottle of Scotch because citizens are now drinking bottles of Scotch to every bottle of brandy.

he European Court of Justice, Combs says, is about to rule that the French proposal is contrary to the Treaty of Rome.

here is little doubt in the Scotch trade however, that the French would then just struggle and "do a lamb," as they say.

his, Combs says, will lead to tartan rumbles about the French retaliation, against Scotch imports here. Combs, the less says he agrees.

Combs says, "I don't know if it's a right thing to do, but what with discrimination, barley prices sent above world levels by Common Agricultural Policy, Brussels foot-dragging over price controls, I don't see any advantage whatever in joining the EEC."



Doctor, I'm sure I am neither ill nor rich enough for a prescription this long.

Toyota (GB), the British importing arm of the biggest car maker, holds an occasional gathering in London to discuss Anglo-Japanese matters.

Business Diary went along yesterday and may have let the tone of the meeting down by asking about the Japanese "economic" staff, why it is so more expensive to buy a Japanese car here than it is in the United States or western Europe.

Alan March, an ex-Ford man and now sales and marketing director for Toyota (GB), agreed that his position as a Toyota or any other Japanese car on the United States market at around half that of a Ford in Britain.

The difference between the European market and the Japanese market, he said, was that the Japanese market was marked, but the European market was not. Toyota's automatic for the British £14,133

Andrew Walters wants Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, to tell him what a letter is.

Walters is managing director of the IML Air Services Group, which specializes as air couriers in routing small business packages from one side of the world to the other.

As the rules stand at the moment, IML is allowed to carry a letter from a businessman in London to his partner in, say, New York, but if that same businessman sends a personal letter to his mother only the Post Office can carry it.

Walters wants the law clarified because, he believes, many businesses think they are doing something illegal, immoral or fattening in using courier services.

He says that British business is losing millions a year in lost and delayed mail because so many feel compelled to use the Post Office. He is to see Department of Industry officials at his invitation today to put his case.

Walters will urge that the various which Keith is carrying out of the Post Office monopoly should, clearly, place and for all the position of private enterprise in business communications.

Walters, who is only 30, joined the army at a rifleman at 17 and later found himself in the Paratrooper Brigade. He was wounded in the Iraq Air Corps flying helicopter and founded IML in 1972 with capital of £200. The company now turns over £10m a year.

BL's entry came with Timothy Ranton, the Tory MP, claiming that the motor group withdrew its franchise from a Norwich garage because it

wanted to increase its sales of BL cars from 20 a year to 500.

Ranton, in questioning Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, in the House on Monday, added that if such was the case then Sir Keith should see that no further taxpayers' money went to BL.

A BL spokesman told Business Diary yesterday: "We don't deserve this sort of adverse publicity without the facts being known. There are many who are misled by the tributors operating in Norwich—Kennings, Mann, Egerton and Duff Morgan."

"They are highly efficient operators, achieving satisfactory coverage of the area. There is no room for another major dealership."

Ranton disclosed to MPs that he was "associated" with the new owners of the garage but did not name them. Business Diary's researches yesterday revealed that Anglian Windows had acquired Sir Benedict's Motors, a small BL retail outlet, in Norwich city centre, which handles 30 or so cars a year.

But Sir Benedict was acquired without consulting BL and, as anyone in the motor trade will tell you, you cannot buy and sell franchises. Anglian and/or Sir Benedict should have consulted BL first. But, Sir, Ranton's statement is a bit far from BL land.

A handwritten caption reproduced in all seriousness in the newsletter of the University of London Computer Society describes "Experiments repeat experiments with the courier service." Maybe the computer wrote it.

Ross Davies



SERCK LIMITED

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Year ended 30 September 1979

	1979	1978
Group sales	£'000	£'000
Profit before interest	91,900	93,300
Interest charges—net	3,304	6,094
Interest charges—net	1,704	944
Group profit before taxation & extraordinary items	1,600	5,150
Taxation relief (charge)	49	(2,308)
Earnings	1,669	2,900
Extraordinary items—closure & major reorganisation costs	3,124	—
Dividends: Interim—paid per share	2.2p	2.2p
Final—proposed per share	1.2p	4.334p
Earnings per share	3.3p	7.3p

At the year end borrowings less cash and deposits were £11.5m. (1978 £1.3m.)

RESULTS

As indicated in May depressed market conditions in some of our major customer industries together with industrial disputes had substantially reduced profits for the first half of the year. Results in the second half were adversely affected by the engineering industry dispute but nevertheless showed an improved trend.

DIVIDEND

In the circumstances the board considers it prudent to make a cut in the final dividend. Subject to unforeseen circumstances the revised payment for the year should be at least maintainable in 1980.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

A series of measures aimed at restructuring the group to meet a continuing weakness in some of our markets has taken place. These measures include the closure of Serck Tubes. The cost of £3.1m has been treated as extraordinary expenditure.

PROSPECTS

We expect a much improved year with the better trend shown in the second half results continuing. Considerable cost savings have been achieved in the heat transfer and valve companies and the closure of Serck Tubes has removed a substantial potential loss.

The annual report will be posted to shareholders on 16 January 1980 and the annual general meeting will be held in Birmingham on 14 February 1980.

Borthwicks

International meat processors and traders
Preliminary Announcement
for year ended 30th September 1979

	1979	1978
Group turnover	£573,756,000	£512,160,000
Profit before tax	£7,341,000	£6,222,000
Profit attributable to Shareholders	£4,563,000	£4,559,000

The mainstream meat business produced a satisfactory, but unexciting result. Australia and New Zealand did well with beef sales to the U.S.A., but New Zealand did badly with lamb due principally to poor market conditions in the U.K.

The newer businesses outside the mainstream meat operations are moving forward, especially the vigorously expanding retail shops in the U.K. and France.

A total dividend for the year of 6.2p per share on 45,146,378 shares, amounting to £2,799,000 is recommended. In 1978 a total dividend of 6.2p per share amounting to £2,796,000 was paid.

Registered Office: Priory House,
St. John's Lane, London, EC1M 4BX.

S. Simpson

The 46th Annual General Meeting of S. Simpson Limited was held on 11th December in London, Dr. S. L. Simpson, Chairman presiding. The following are extracts from his circulated statement.

Turnover has been further increased in the year under review, but not with the same degree of profitability, largely due to the degree of increase in inflationary costs, direct and indirect, industrial and social unrest and excessive taxation referred to in the penultimate paragraph of my 1978 Report. These factors and the paradoxical excessive strength of Sterling in the international monetary field were more serious in their impact on profitability in the second half of the financial year. Nevertheless we have made progress in several directions and widened our base for trading throughout the world.

On the manufacturing side, we continue our policy of optimum investment in new manufacturing plant and technology to ensure the high quality tailoring essential for success in competitive markets at home and overseas.

Our existing licensees continue to carry the name of DAKS throughout the world and we have recently renewed our licensing agreements in Japan and initiated licensing arrangements in the U.S.A. and Switzerland for a range of DAKS Accessories.

Once again, as Chairman, I am pleased to tender my thanks and appreciation to all my colleagues on the Board and to the employees of all Companies within the Group for their untiring efforts and loyalty during the past year.

UK must develop microprocessor if it is not to 'go out of business'

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

If Britain does not move forward with the new technology of microprocessors the country will "go out of business", a Department of Industry report published yesterday says. For the country to stay as it is is not an available choice.

Wealth could be generated by grasping the opportunities offered by the microelectronic revolution. But in-built resistance to change in the institutionalized conflict between management and labour might prevent this, and "serious social disruption" could result.

"Should events merely be left to take their course, without the creation of a reasoned and definite strategy, there is some ultimate danger of either an unwholesome State-centralized control, or an unchecked and violent society with inequitable contrasts between rich and poor."

consensus view of 35 individuals, described as experts, from the electronics industry, manufacturers and users of technology; trade unions;

government agencies and Parliament; and from a group of "commentators" including consultants, a professor and a journalist.

Their opinions on the impact of microprocessors on business of industry in connection with the Department's Microprocessor Application Project. The resulting report has been published by the National Computing Centre.

If the United Kingdom fails

to apply microelectronics at least as rapidly as other countries do, much of British industry will come under heavy and intensifying competition from overseas, the report says.

Microprocessors have three broad types of impact. They "enhance people's capabilities and enrich their lives" by simulating the manufacture of new products; they conserve other resources such as energy or materials; and they can act as substitutes for labour, by decreasing the amount of labour required for a given output or increasing the output of a given labour force.

Professor Ernest Braun, of the Technological Policy Unit, University of Aston, and one of the experts consulted for the report, said at a press conference yesterday that the threat of technological unemployment would be overshadowed by unemployment caused by general economic factors. But, the report says, the technology will tend to aggravate the "structural situation" and may easily be blamed as a scapegoat for any problems that arise.

Mr David Pirbright, director of the National Computing Centre and another of the experts consulted for the report, said: "Microelectronics is good fortune, not misfortune."

There could be a shift in the geographical pattern of wealth creation in Britain, the report suggests, with the decline of manufacturing in the north and the rise of new information and knowledge-based service industries in the south. Impact of microprocessors on British business. Published by the National Computing Centre, Manchester. Price, £5.50.

Forecasters predict gloomy year ahead

Britain faces a drop in output next year, with rising unemployment, and continuing high levels of inflation according to all but one of the economic forecasters quoted below. Surprisingly, perhaps, the Treasury

is the most pessimistic about output next year—predicting a drop of 2 per cent in the economy. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research is the most optimistic about growth prospects.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	Year 1980 on year 1979	CE	St. J.	NIESR	Nov	Dec	Nov	Dec	Nov	Dec
(% change between years unless otherwise stated)										
Gross domestic product	0.2	-1.1	-1.0	-1.3	-0.9	-1.8	-2	-2	-2	-2
Inflation	16.3	15.5	16.9	16.4	13.2	16.1	14	14	14	14
Unemployment (000)	1,420	1,287	1,500	1,850	1,650	1,458	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Consumer spending	1.6	0.1	-0.5	-0.9	0.7	-1.2	1	1	1	1
Private investment in housebuilding	-2.0	-2.4	-0.7	-6.8	-0.8	-3.1	-1	-1	-1	-1
Public investment in housebuilding	-4.3	-2.2	-1.5	-6.8	-0.5	-5.9	-4	-4	-4	-4
Public authorities' consumption	-0.1	0.5	-0.6	-1.1	-0.5	-0.8	-1	-1	-1	-1
Stockbuilding (2m 1978 prices)	1,481	-386	281	-800	2.2	-100	-2	-2	-2	-2
Exports	4.0	4.0	2.9	1.9	2.9	3.2	0	0	0	0
Imports	1.7	-1.1	0.8	-1.4	-0.4	0.2	-2	-2	-2	-2
Balance of payments current account	-3,300	-660	-300	+1,300	-2,200	-900	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
PSBR (2m fiscal 1980-81)	9,000	11,200	10,000	9,500	10,200	8,900	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Money supply (% change in 2m fiscal 1980-81)	9	7.5	9	8.8	11.7	7.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research; LBS: London Business School; HG: Home Govett; CE: Cambridge Econometrics; St. J.: St. James' Group; published in Economist; P & D: Phillips and Drew; 1: fourth quarter 1980 on fourth quarter 1979; 2: fourth quarter 1980, excluding oil; 3: gross fixed investment; 4: private fixed investment; 5: public corporation's fixed investment; stockbuilding as % gdp; 6: second quarter 1981 on second quarter 1980; PSBR is forecast to stay at about the same % in many firms as in 1978-80.

Forecasts for gdp components are in constant prices.

* The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect difference in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice yearly. NIESR, CE and St. J. four times a year; LBS three times a year; HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

Business appointments

Mr Macmillan to join board of Yarrow and Co

Mr Maurice Macmillan has joined the board of Yarrow and Co as a non-executive director.

Mr T. G. Congdon will be joining L. Messel & Co with effect from April 14 next year.

Mr A. R. M. Brown has been appointed commercial director of Dowty Meco.

Mr Michael Hargrave is to join the board of Neil and Spencer Holdings.

Mr J. J. Stringer, deputy chairman and managing director of Wadham Stringer, has been appointed to the main board of TKM. Mr J. Sleaf, an executive director of TKM, has been appointed to the Wadham Stringer board.

Mr L. F. Titcomb has been appointed chairman and continues as managing director of Norman Hay following the death of Mr Norman Hay, chairman and joint managing director.

Mr R. D. Romeril, deputy chief accountant, Mond Division, and Mr G. R. Madder, general manager of finance, ICI New Zealand, have been appointed assistant managers of ICI.

Mr Douglas R. P. Baker, managing partner and chief executive of Touche Ross & Co has been elected chairman of the board of governors, Touche Ross International.

Mr Richard Hurn, property and development director of A.T. Stores Holdings, and Mr John Sheldrake, company secretary of International Stores, have been appointed directors of Argus.

Sir Ian McLennan, chairman of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ), has been elected chairman of the restructured board of the Bank of Adelaide, and Mr M. Brumby, ANZ managing director, deputy chairman, former chairman Sir Anthony Rymill and Mr E. H. Burgess will remain as directors. Other appointments are Mr J. D. Milne, ANZ general manager and Mr A. G. Kilpatrick, ANZ assistant general manager. Mr A. M. Simpson, former deputy chairman, Mr D. M. Fowler, Mr E. S. Turner, Mr P. E. Wells and Mr M. Asley have retired from the board.

Mr Ian Clark has been reappointed a full-time member of the board of the British National Oil Corporation for a further period of one year.

Mr J. E. Ward has been appointed chief executive and a director of Lewis & Peat (Merchandising) and chairman and a director of Wogan-Intercept. He will continue as a director of Guinness Peat International, and will remain a director of Lewis & Peat (Merchandising). Mr C. J. Craig will be appointed managing director of Guinness Peat (Overseas) while retaining a director of Guinness Peat International.

Mr Hugh Ellis has been appointed managing director of Intercity Electric and Mechanical Services. Mr J. J. Francis has been appointed chairman-elect of Dobson Pack Industries.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

7 1/2% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1981

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that One Million Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Dollars (\$1,333,000) principal amount of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. 7 1/2% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1981 and bearing the following serial numbers, have been drawn for redemption for account of the Sinking Fund on January 15, 1980 at the principal amount thereof and accepted interest to that date.

DEBENTURES IN DENOMINATION OF \$1,000. EACH

21	1882	2382	4720	5828	6887	8382	9382	11382	13382	14877	15882	16872	17872	18872	19872	20872	21872	22872	23872	24872	25872	26872	27872	28872	29872	30872	31872	32872	33872	34872	35872	36872	37872	38872	39872	40872	41872	42872	43872	44872	45872	46872	47872	48872	49872	50872	51872	52872	53872	54872	55872	56872	57872	58872	59872	60872	61872	62872	63872	64872	65872	66872	67872	68872	69872	70872	71872	72872	73872	74872	75872	76872	77872	78872	79872	80872	81872	82872	83872	84872	85872	86872	87872	88872	89872	90872	91872	92872	93872	94872	95872	96872	97872	98872	99872	100872	101872	102872	103872	104872	105872	106872	107872	108872	109872	110872	111872	112872	113872	114872	115872	116872	117872	118872	119872	120872	121872	122872	123872	124872	125872	126872	127872	128872	129872	130872	131872	132872	133872	134872	135872	136872	137872	138872	139872	140872	141872	142872	143872	144872	145872	146872	147872	148872	149872	150872	151872	152872	153872	154872	155872	156872	157872	158872	159872	160872	161872	162872	163872	164872	165872	166872	167872	168872	169872	170872	171872	172872	173872	174872	175872	176872	177872	178872	179872	180872	181872	182872	183872	184872	185872	186872	187872	188872	189872	190872	191872	192872	193872	194872	195872	196872	197872	198872	199872	200872	201872	202872	203872	204872	205872	206872	207872	208872	209872	210872	211872	212872	213872	214872	215872	216872	217872	218872	219872	220872	221872	222872	223872	224872	225872	226872	227872	228872	229872	230872	231872	232872	233872	234872	235872	236872	237872	238872	239872	240872	241872	242872	243872	244872	245872	246872	247872	248872	249872	250872	251872	252872	253872	254872	255872	256872	257872	258872	259872	260872	261872	262872	263872	264872	265872	266872	267872	268872	269872	270872	271872	272872	273872	274872	275872	276872	277872	278872	279872	280872	281872	282872	283872	284872	285872	286872	287872	288872	289872	290872	291872	292872	293872	294872	295872	296872	297872	298872	299872	300872	301872	302872	303872	304872	305872	306872	307872	308872	309872	310872	311872	312872	313872	314872	315872	316872	317872	318872	319872	320872	321872	322872	323872	324872	325872	326872	327872	328872	329872	330872	331872	332872	333872	334872	335872	336872	337872	338872	339872	340872	341872	342872	343872	344872	345872	346872	347872	348872	349872	350872	351872	352872	353872	354872	355872	356872	357872	358872	359872	360872	361872	362872	363872	364872	365872	366872	367872	368872	369872	370872	371872	372872	373872	374872	375872	376872	377872	378872	379872	380872	381872	382872	383872	384872	385872	386872	387872	388872	389872	390872	391872	392872	393872	394872	395872	396872	397872	398872	399872	400872	401872	402872	403872	404872	405872	406872	407872	408872	409872	410872	411872	412872	413872	414872	415872	416872	417872	418872	419872	420872	421872	422872	423872	424872	425872	426872	427872	428872	429872	430872	431872	432872	433872	434872	435872	436872	437872	438872	439872	440872	441872	442872	443872	444872	445872	446872	447872	448872	449872	450872	451872	452872	453872	454872	455872	456872	457872	458872	459872	460872	461872	462872	463872	464872	465872	466872	467872	468872	469872	470872	471872	472872	473872	474872	475872	476872	477872	478872	479872	480872	481872	482872	483872	484872	485872	486872	487872	488872	489872	490872	491872	492872	493872	494872	495872	496872	497872	498872	499872	500872	501872	502872	503872	504872	505872	506872	507872	508872	509872	510872	511872	512872	513872	514872	515872	516872	517872	518872	519872	520872	521872	522872	523872	524872	525872	526872	527872	528872	529872	530872	531872	532872	533872	534872	535872	536872	537872	538872	539872	540872	541872	542872	543872	544872	545872	546872	547872	548872	549872	550872	551872	552872	553872	554872	555872	556872	557872	558872	559872	560872	561872	562872	563872	564872	565872	566872	567872	568872	569872	570872	571872	572872	573872	574872	575872	576872	577872	578872	579872	580872	581872	582872	583872	584872	585872	586872	587872	588872	589872	590872	591872	592872	593872	594872	595872	596872	597872	598872	599872	600872	601872	602872	603872	604872	605872	606872	607872	608872	609872	610872	611872	612872	613872	614872	615872	616872	617872	618872	619872	620872	621872	622872	623872	624872	625872	626872	627872	628872	629872	630872	631872	632872	633872	634872	635872	636872	637872	638872	639872	640872	641872	642872	643872	644872	645872	646872	647872	648872	649872	650872	651872	652872	653872	654872	655872	656872	657872	658872	659872	660872	661872	662872	663872	664872	665872	666872	667872	668872	669872	670872	671872	672872	673872	674872	675872	676872	677872	678872	679872	680872	681872	682872	683872	684872	685872	686872	687872	688872	689872	690872	691872	692872	693872	694872	695872	696872	697872	698872	699872	700872	701872	702872	703872	704872	705872	706872	707872	708872	709872	710872	711872	712872	713872	714872	715872	716872	717872	718872	719872	720872	721872	722872	723872	724872	725872	726872	727872	728872	729872	730872	731872	732872	733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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts lead the way up despite bank figures

The stock market maintained its firm start to the new account yesterday with a strong performance by gilt-edged which proved strong enough to carry equities along with it.

Even the banking figures, every bit bad as the market had anticipated, failed to deter buyers' enthusiasm, which after a pause to digest the figures, rucd on again.

Decca continues to arouse interest as to its future. Meanwhile it is thought by some that the sale of the music business to Polygram could result in it making more money than many City folk suppose. A popular City joke is that the sale of the company will be nearer £15m. The "A" shares rose 5p to 26p.

Dealers are now anticipating that the money supply figures due out on Thursday may not turn out to be as bad as earlier feared.

The Government broker reported that supplies of the new "Treasury" 15 per cent, 1985, had been finally exhausted and some speculation is circulating that a new "Treasury" stock to be announced before Christmas.

Business in London reached its highest level for some time, with most showing gains of between 1 and 1.50p on the day overall. Shares made a more cautious start with rises of about 1.50p reported before the close of the banking figures, which expanded turnover 2p just after leaving overall increases.

of about £3 to £4 on the day. Some interest, although most centred on golds as the bullion price scaled new highlights and oil, where price increases and merger news dominated.

After opening 3.4 up at 10 am, the FT index went on to reach its high point for the day an hour later at 3.3 before closing 3.7 up at 422.5.

Leading industrials were spurred on by talk of a strong rally leading up to the Christmas holidays.

Glass were 5p stronger at 438p after an optimistic chairman's statement earlier in the week, while ICI gained 4p to 370p. Pilkington Bros going ex-dividend 2p to 201p while the "new" were 5p premium. Cairn 2p up to 22p, they have been unchanged at 5p.

Marley reports today. The impression is that the company is heading for profits of between £24m and £25m this year and that it made at least £21m in the year just gone. The shares hardened 2p to 40p. In a word, they have come up from little more than 70p.

Oil was buoyant on a further rise in the price of oil. This was good enough for a 40p leap in Oil Exploration at 690p and a 17p jump in merger partner Lasso at 735p. Markets, however, were not as buoyant as they had been from a major United States

group was imminent. This prompted a 7p rise to 155p in Cavendish, which has just increased its stake in Lasso to 13 per cent, and a 6p advance to 125p in National Carbondising another Lasso shareholder.

Other North Sea shares to gain ground included Associated Newspapers 6p better at 249p, while Graig Shipping leapt 15p to 775p on talk of full bid from Cluff Oil following its announcement that it had increased its stake to 12 per cent, Imperial

Continental Gas rose 7p to 615p also aided by a 17 per cent rise in profits at the half year stage. Major oils were somewhat quieter with BP up 2p to 364p as was Ultramar at 410p. Shell was 4p firmer at 342p.

The record level of bullion saw another strong performance by gold shares with Gold Mines index rising 9.8 to 262.5. Kioof climbed \$11 to \$251. West Drieston rose \$3 to \$68.8 and Venterpost put 15 cents to 875 cents. Elsewhere in mines RTZ

advanced 6p to 300p after news of an encouraging diamond discovery. Tanks increased 22p to 222p and Consolidated Gold Fields rose 10p to 351p.

Haynes Publishing making its debut on the market opened up 3p above the issue price of 120p before finishing the day at 122p. News that Booker McConnell was having talks in the United States which could lead to a joint venture with the Rockefeller family boosted the shares 5p to 77p.

Latest results

Company	Share	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Arlington Motor (1)	31.3(33.3)	1,010(69)	12.2(8.1)	2.5(2.5)	12	8.0
Banks Invest (1)	1.3(0.91)	0.1(0.33)	0.066(0.12)	0.03(0.2)	28.2	0.1
Barker & Dobson (1)	16.4(17.6)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	6.2	0.1
Beechwood Const (1)	5.4(4.9)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Cairn (1)	22.0(22.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
N. Brown Invest (1)	9.3(8.1)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Archimedes Invest (1)	1.3(0.91)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Carroll Indus (1)	114.33(99.01)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Cairn (1)	22.0(22.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Culter Guard (1)	11.7(10.2)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Dobson Park (1)	142.0(132.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Drin Roadport (1)	1.3(0.91)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
East Rand (1)	2.2(2.2)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Geevor Mines (1)	27.0(21.5)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
James Green (1)	114.33(99.01)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Int Timber (1)	61.0(55.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
K. Brown (1)	15.0(13.7)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Mitchell Somers (1)	12.7(12.1)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Monza (1)	20.6(19.4)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Record Ridgeway (1)	20.6(19.4)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Serck (1)	91.9(93.3)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Times Bookwell (1)	373.3(332.1)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
R. W. Toothill (1)	1.3(0.91)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Tratralor House (1)	946.0(825.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Ud Spring & Sd (1)	26.2(20.0)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1
Wilson Bros (1)	7.0(7.1)	0.25(0.32)	0.01(0.01)	0.01(0.01)	10.0	0.1

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiplying the net dividend by 1.438. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=loss, b=cents, c=adjusted for sub-division.

K Shoes 27pc ahead

By Our Financial Staff

A smaller-than-expected pay increase last year helped K Shoes, the Kendal-based manufacturer and retailer to boost profits by 27 per cent while turnover rose by 16 per cent.

Pre-tax profits were £519,000, a 27 per cent increase on £408,000 in the year ending September 30, 1979. During the year the group paid a 7.5 per cent wage rise which was well below the general rate of labour increases.

But the group said that this year's pay round would produce a higher increase. It has reverted to the shoe industry's traditional scheme of paying a monthly cost-of-living increase as well as a percentage rise in November.

Mr Spencer Crookender, chairman, said that the manufacturing side of the business had shown the greater increase in profits although retailing had made further progress. K children's shoes, in kid proof leather, have shown particu-

larly strong growth in pairs sold, he said.

Sales had been particularly strong during the weeks preceding the Budget but the subsequent rise in VAT had helped the group's growth by the year-end.

The sharp rise in the price of leather, which in some cases amounted to a 100 per cent increase, also influenced the results. And although the price of leather has fallen, this will be reflected in the price of shoes until next autumn when the group hopes to hold prices.

Australian exports had also suffered, thanks to big jumps in duty coupled with an import duty system, but K Shoes' activities in the Netherlands proved "useful". Mr Crookender said. The final dividend goes up to 2.52p gross from last year's 2p. This makes a total of 3.52p gross.

The outlook for this year is uncertain, he said, but the world economic situation and the likely reduction in consumer spending, although the group plans to keep its price rises within the rate of inflation.

Arlington Motor climbs 50pc

A surge in bus and coach sales spurred the North London Arlington Motor Group's pre-tax profits to record levels for the half year to September 28, 1979.

Pre-tax profits leapt by 50 per cent from £697,000 to £1,047,000 on turnover up by 34 per cent at £31.34m, against £23.38m. After tax of £544,000 compared with £362,000 and interest charges of £423,000 against £271,000, attributable profits were £503,000, 50 per cent up on last year's £335,000.

The board says that the better performance on the coach and bus side has come partly from delayed deliveries in the previous half coming into the six months under review.

Arlington has also managed to increase its share of the market. There has been an increase in Arlington's profitability on petrol sales. There has been a return to wider margins and prospects are looking good.

The final critical factor in Arlington's successful half year is the contribution from Northampton Car Auctions acquired last February.

Prospects for the current half year are encouraging. Sales of buses and coaches together with commercial vehicles continue to be buoyant. There was some doubt about the impact of high interest rates on the cost of Arlington financing its stock base, but within the last two weeks agreement has been reached with General Motors. It will cushion the full impact of dearer lending rates.

Record Ridgeway pays nominal dividend

Sluggant second-half profits at Sheffield hand tool manufacturer Record Ridgeway has left shareholders without a final dividend for the second year running.

A nominal 0.1p dividend is to be paid but only to preserve a "dividend" in the horizon. For the year to September 30, 1979, the group turned in pre-tax profits of £238,000 against £651,000 on turnover up

from £19.3m to £20.6m. Ridgeway's problems started in the second half of last year when it made a loss of £209,000. Since then it has turned in two successive six month profit figures of £119,000.

However the annual figure this time was depressed by a much larger interest charge of £543,000 resulting from capital investment in the ceilings and forgoing dividends.

Although high interest rates and a strong pound will continue to curb profits the new foundry will make a contribution in the second half year. And a reduction in costs elsewhere should also help. Earnings will benefit from not having to stand the costs of the transport and engineering disputes.

Demand at home is showing signs of improving but bad margins and volume of exports have fallen back. Yesterday the shares slipped a penny to 27p.

Timber margins squeezed

A crop of results from the timber industry yesterday illustrated the battle the companies are fighting against higher interest charges and the consequent difficulties in maintaining margins.

Montague L. Meyer saw a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £9.3m on a 17 per cent turnover increase to £152m in the half year ending September 30, 1979.

There was a strong contribution from the group's Indonesian associate companies after a 40 per cent devaluation there last year. As a result profit margins were dramatically, albeit temporarily, increased which conformed indications given by the chairman in the annual report.

But Mr M. J. Meyer, the new chairman, stressed that second half figures are bound to be affected by the rise in interest rates although trading in October and November continued to be satisfactory.

He stressed that the 15 per cent rise in timber prices during the year had pushed up the group's borrowings by a similar rate although the market had started to stabilise recently.

The interim dividend had gone up from 3p gross to 3.2p and there is every indication that the final will be increased by a similar amount, in spite of the



Mr M. J. Meyer, chairman of Montague L. Meyer.

turnover increase was 18 per cent and profits went up by only 8 per cent if Bamberg's figures for last year were included in group results. He added that high interest charges were largely responsible for the smaller overall profits growth.

With borrowings currently standing at £30m compared with £28m at the year end in March 1979, Mr Meyer expects the first quarter of 1980 to be more difficult. October and November results are satisfactory and have benefited from the sterling rise.

The closure of the group's Plymouth outlet, at a cost of £300,000. The interim dividend has risen from 4.6p gross to 4.7p which was anticipated in the group's rights issue earlier this year.

James Latham, the London timber merchant, was even more severely hit by the increased interest charges, than the other two groups. Pre-tax profits fell from £751,000 to £748,000 after a £207,000 rise in charges for the half year ending March 31, 1979.

"Although sales are standing up reasonably well, it is proving difficult in some areas to obtain adequate margins," said Mr Michael Latham, chairman. The interim dividend has gone up from 4.5p gross to 4.6p.

Utd Spring manages 16pc rise

By Baron Phillips

Despite a year beset by strikes West Midlands based United Spring & Steel managed to push profits up by 16 per cent during the 12 months to September 30, 1979. Pre-tax profits rose from £1,266m to a record £1,477m.

Turnover surged by 20 per cent from £22.55m to £26.25m. Mr David Westwood, chairman, reports that the group encountered a difficult year. It started off with the Ford strike

and ended with the engineering disputes over the summer. He says that most of the group's increased profit came from the spring manufacturing division. In the last financial year the division chipped in a healthy £573,000 profit, only £100,000 short of the steel division, on only a third of the group's turnover.

On the other hand, Mr Westwood states, Steel only just managed to hold its own which means that the Spring division

is now contributing greater profits to United's overall earnings.

Mr Westwood is cautious this year. Although the first few months started off brightly there is a noticeable falling away in sales in some areas. He does not quantify this reduction in orders, but says that if it picks up again in the New Year 1979-80 will be satisfactory. But with the possibility of a Steel strike the future is not looking too bright.

Appointments Vacant also on page 27

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730 5346
Anthony Bryant

MECHANICAL ENGINEER

required. Over 5 years' experience in control eng. for pumping station. Location: London. Salary for one year. Salary: £200-£300 a month plus car + house bonus.

Please contact: Mervyn Trading Co., 40 Cumberland Place, Serpentine Road, London W.1. Tel: 723 6003/Personnel Dept.

EDITORIAL AND INFORMATION

Senior editorial and information post with professional body likely to suit good honours graduate with post with substantial job satisfaction. Interesting and varied work, increasing responsibility for monthly publication containing health, sports, education, news, and articles, information duties mainly related to careers and membership enquiries. Salary negotiable to about £25,000. France benefits. Application form from Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, 12 Queen Anne Street, London W.1N 6AU. Tel: 01-565 6192.

THE CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

requires: Two Appeal Secretaries. One to cover Devon and Cornwall, the other to cover the London area. Paid work range 40-55. Successful applicants must be in or close to their area and will start work on 28 February. Closing date for application: 11 January. For further particulars, and application form apply to: Administrative Officer, Cancer Research Campaign, 2 Gordon House, Terrace, London SW1V 5AR.

PROJECT MANAGER (M.F.)

to work with expanding contract furniture co. in Sloane Square, Dublin. Includes co-ordinating distribution of furniture, materials, and labour. Salary negotiable to about £25,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

Telephone 01-730 2111 for appointment.

FINES ACT enforcement, London based. The individual on the administrative side of the business. Salary to £25,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

CAREERS THAT COUNT with commercial or cultural. Commercial South Kent. Customer service and sales. Salary to £25,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

TRANSLATOR VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is looking for a French translator to join its Public Relations Department in Vienna. Most of your work will consist of translating French articles and press into English, some editing work, and you may also be asked occasionally to provide some informal interpretation at meetings. Candidates should have degree-level French and at least 3 years experience as a professional translator in industry, commerce, or government. Some knowledge of the energy field is an advantage. English mother tongue essential and a working knowledge of Spanish is highly desirable. The ability to type is an advantage. Salary is well above average including health insurance, six weeks' holiday, plus other fringe benefits.

Please send full c.v. to: ORGANIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, OPEC HOUSE, 10, RUE DE LA VIOLETTE, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

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MANAGER OR MANAGERESS

We are seeking an experienced academic bookseller with personality and the ability to communicate with all sections of the University environment, to take control of a large and well fitted out University shop.

Salary negotiable depending on age and qualifications and commensurate with the responsibility of the position. In addition to the basic salary a company car is provided plus a yearly bonus based on performance, with assistance in house purchase and removal expenses.

Please write initially for a preliminary interview, giving present age and curriculum vitae, to: The Chairman, H. J. Lear Ltd., 13-17 Royal Arcade, Cardiff, CF1 2PP.

ECONOMICS WRITER

There is a vacancy for an Economics Writer on the staff of The Times Business News. Candidates should have relevant qualifications or experience in economic analysis or journalism. Please write giving full personal and career details to:

Editor
The Times Business News
Times Newspapers Ltd.
20 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1 8EZ

GENERAL VACANCIES

EXP. BOOKKEEPER required for our operations. Must have initiative and be a team player. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Liverpool
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING ENGINEERING
Applications are invited for the post of

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT

In Recent Technology in the Department of Building Engineering. The project is financed by the S.R.C. for three years, starting as soon as possible. The successful candidate will study the relationship between the physical and chemical properties of building materials and the structural behavior of buildings. Candidates should have a degree in Building Engineering or a related subject. Salary will be £12,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

Applications, together with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 11 January 1980 by the Registrar, The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3GB. From whom further particulars may be obtained. Quote ref. 827/80.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

SPANISH Teacher, native speaking, required. Salary £12,000 p.a. plus bonus. Write or telephone the European Auction Rooms, Hayes, Middx. Tel: 01-725 5547.

Racal growth continues

25th consecutive record interim results despite difficult trading conditions

Sales increased to £112.9m

Pre-tax profits increased to £25.3m

The unaudited pre-tax net profit for the half-year ended 30th September, 1979 amounted to £25,263,000 (1978 £24,323,000) an increase of 3.9%.

Taxation is estimated at £10,737,000 (1978 £11,411,000).

Turnover was £112,916,000 (previous half-year £99,894,000) an increase of 13.0%.

An interim dividend of 4.2% net of tax (previous year 3.8% adjusted for the Scrip Issue) will be paid on 1st February, 1980 to Shareholders on the Register on 21st December, 1979.

Turnover was adversely affected by approximately £5,000,000 and pre-tax profits by approximately £1,750,000 by

(a) the effect of the appreciation of sterling on the translation of the substantial sales and earnings

of our overseas companies, particularly those in the USA, and

(b) the national engineering one and two day stoppages and overtime ban at the Wembley factory of Racal-BCC and on our suppliers generally.

Difficulties were experienced in the areas of tactical radio and communications security owing to delays in placing large orders by certain overseas customers which are expected in the near future. Subject only to other circumstances beyond our control, the Directors expect record profits for the twenty-fifth consecutive year.

The underlying trend of our business is most encouraging and prospects for the future are good.

RACAL The Electronics Group

Winners of Ten Queen's Awards in Ten Years

Racal Electronics Limited, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire

MARKET REPORTS

Discount market

Giving help on a small scale, the Bank of England bought out a shortage in the discount market yesterday by purchasing Treasury bills and local authority bills.

Earlier in the session, it had looked as though the shortage might have been rather more sizeable than that, and rates that had opened mainly on the lower side of a range of 15-17 per cent moved to a penny from 15 per cent, which will rule at the end of the morning for secured bills.

However, with today's mid-morning make-up at hand for the bank, a feature of the session was the readiness of lenders to put out money for short periods rather than overnight. So a good deal of business was done on the sale of deposits for anything between two and nine days.

Money Market

Rates of Credit and Minimum Lending Rate 17%

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Wall Street

New York, Dec. 11.—Stock prices weakened in active early trading, then recovered, declined and advanced six to five.

Analysts said the market was responding to weakness in the dollar and the sharp rise in gold prices, which reflect concern about price decisions due from Opec next week. Additionally, the interest rate picture remains cloudy.

American Cyanamid eased its active trading after rising two points yesterday on takeover speculation. Consolidated Freightways eased 3 to 24 1/2 and McLean Trucking 1 to 2 1/2. Polaroid dipped 3 to 2 1/2 and Eastman Kodak 1 to 4 1/2.

Silver gains 43 cents

New York, Dec. 10.—COMEX silver futures gained 43 cents yesterday on takeover speculation. Consolidated Freightways eased 3 to 24 1/2 and McLean Trucking 1 to 2 1/2. Polaroid dipped 3 to 2 1/2 and Eastman Kodak 1 to 4 1/2.

Consolidated Freightways eased 3 to 24 1/2 and McLean Trucking 1 to 2 1/2. Polaroid dipped 3 to 2 1/2 and Eastman Kodak 1 to 4 1/2.

Polaroid dipped 3 to 2 1/2 and Eastman Kodak 1 to 4 1/2.

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Bank Base Rates

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Greene Greene

MEDIA ASSISTANT/PLANNER/BUYER £5,000

You'll be working with two super-media men on a head to head basis, so you'll get plenty of help and a good training in media planning and buying. The company is a blue chip ad agency, so you'll be part of a team of professionals. Quite a lot of socialising, admin, liaison, excellent promotion prospects. Agency experience essential.

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The Chairman of this top ad agency group is looking for a very senior Sec./P.A. with excellent skills and a real ability to cope with administrative problems for the group. Mature outlook important.

Please phone Linette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 493 4545.

71 New Bond Street, London, W.1.
ADPOWER RANDSTAD STAFF CONSULTANTS

adpower randstad

CORNWALL

Social Services Department

ORGANISING SECRETARY

£4,444 - £5,067 p.a.

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

SENIOR SECRETARY

£4,444 - £5,067 p.a.

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

£5,000+

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

KENSINGTON WAY

£5,000+

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

SECRETARIAL PLUS £5,500

£5,500+

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

TELLA FISHER BUREAU

£5,500+

Appointment will be on the basis of the Social Services Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

MARKETING ASSISTANT £5,000

The dynamic, energetic director of a small, select marketing group is looking for a very polished Sec./P.A. who has a strong personality, capable of acting as a back up to him dealing with his top level contacts, Ambassadors, etc. There's a great deal of entertaining and out of the office work.

SEC./P.A./COORDINATOR £5,250

This is a super job working for the script director and an assistant director of a top W.I. agency on really good terms. You'll need excellent sec. skills and real ability to coordinate a great deal of interesting, advertising assignments.

Please phone Linette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 493 4545.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

LONDON

We are a large international company which provides travel related services to the public and the media. We are seeking a Secretary to work for one of our senior executives in London. A suitable applicant will not be less than 25, will have a minimum of 3 years' experience and will be a native English speaker. The position requires a good organizer, who will remain cool and unflappable under pressure, and be capable of communicating at the most senior level both over the phone and face to face. Knowledge of any European language would be very useful.

The job involves providing a total secretarial service to our account Vice-President, Airlines, and includes organising meetings and travel arrangements and running the office when the executive is away.

We are offering a salary of c. £5,000, L.V.'s, 20 days' holiday and a number of other company benefits. If you are interested, please send brief details of your background and experience to:

Denise Page, American Express Company, Card Division, Edward Street, Brighton.

NEW HORIZONS

£5,500

TRILINGUAL P.A./SECRETARY c. £5,500 If you have fluent German and a high standard of Italian, if you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment, then you may well enjoy working with this international fashion executive. Aged late 20's - early 30's. You will need skills of 100/60, a resilient personality and infinite patience. W.I. area.

NEW YEAR College leavers, stud jobs, experienced Secretaries and P.A.s. We have a variety of posts available with the prospect of a happy and prosperous year ahead.

Recruitment Consultants.

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101 NEW BOND STREET, W.1

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

A bright and intelligent writer with keen interest and knowledge of hand-writing and needs-craft is required to join the editorial team to write 'news' and 'features' for company publications.

Good judgment and ability to produce and develop ideas together with fluency in writing and practical outlook, are essential.

The successful applicant (male or female) will work as part of the publication's team in a West End office.

Salary will be negotiable with a progressive salary structure allowing generous recognition of merit.

Please write in confidence, giving career details and salary, to:

The Manager, Box No. 0128 F, The Times, or 01-232 4742.

MUCH MORE THAN A SECRETARY TO £5,500

Administration, dealing with people, organization and coordination are all part of this exciting job with the Head of Property Management at a leading company in the West End.

End company. He is super to work with, a pleasant and, positive personality. He is a very good secretary, typing, and some good previous experience possibly with Estate Agents. Age 30-35.

Bernadette of Bond St.

Recruitment Consultants

01-232 4742

WEMBLEY SECRETARY/PA TO £5,000

Join the team of an international company where liaising and meeting clients are the order of the day. Your good secretarial skills and discerning approach will be appreciated by the M.D. Car. Driver. Age 30-35.

Phone Liz Sherlock

SENIOR SECRETARIES

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AUDIO P.A. Salary £5,500

Challenging position to assist two young men from a major partnership. Although your secretarial skills, your ability to organize a new office and communicate with clients are essential. Our clients have stressed that a sense of humour is essential.

Phone 01-493 1144

HANDLING STAFF

10 New Bond Street, W.1

GO SPANISH £5,500 NEC.

Partner of a top W.I. who is involved in the house and office sale of Spanish houses. Aged 25-35, with a good knowledge of Spanish, work on the office and home. Good social skills. Salary £5,500 p.a. + L.V.'s. Contact: 01-493 1144

PER executive secretaries

TOP SALARY

A FIVE-STAR SECRETARY

If you feel that ACTION is an unusual area for a really top, efficient secretary, you can offer an extremely attractive benefits package. Please contact DOROTHY ALLISON.

WINE IN THE WEST END

You will certainly see your FLEET SPANISH P.A. in the West End. The excellent salary will be in proportion with the skills and experience. You can offer an extremely attractive benefits package. Please contact DOROTHY ALLISON.

ADVERTISING

An efficient Secretary required for the Group Chairman of a leading Advertising Company situated in Kensington. Top salary £5,500-£6,500 p.a. + L.V.'s. Non-comm. Pension. Restaurant facilities. Contact GILL NEEDHAM.

01-235 9984

PER Executive Secretaries

4/5 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7SB

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

£5,300 p.a. HAMMERSMITH

We are a growing company within the Grand Metropolitan Group concerned with catering and the management of staff facilities, both in the UK and overseas. We are in a bright, modern office and are proud of the friendly, keen spirit in the company. We need a secretary to work with our director of human resources, who is responsible for personnel on a world-wide basis. Apart from requiring excellent secretarial skills, the job offers challenge, variety and the opportunity to be involved in an interesting side of industry, where policy is made and legislative advice given. You must have had senior secretarial experience, ideally at board level and be at least 30. A good educational background is required and a pleasant telephone manner is essential. If you have these qualifications why not come and join our team.

Please write or telephone for an application form to: Steven Friedlander, Bateman Grandmet Holdings Ltd., Cambridge Grove, Hammersmith, W.6. Telephone: 01-741 1541.

SECRETARY c. £5,500

Diverse Public Company requires versatile Secretary in its busy West End Head Office to work for the Company Secretary/Treasurer.

We need someone with excellent shorthand, typing and Administrative ability, capable of dealing with people at top level. We are a small and friendly Head Office team working from prestigious offices. Usual fringe benefits apply plus staff discounts on products.

Please ring Sue Ganley on 01-493 3484 or write to her with C.V. at FENTONS LTD., 1/5 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Where are you?

If you have a flair for organising, enjoy typing and are numerate, you could be the person we are looking for. We are a busy people who desperately need looking after. There's never a dull moment in our lovely Bond Street office, and we can offer an excellent salary to the right person. If you think we're looking for you, please call Carol on

499 6961

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

are seeking experienced bilingual secretaries for interesting posts in London.

FRENCH: Truly bilingual P.A. Secretary (both shorthand) with sound experience. City, £5,000 plus.

GERMAN: Executive secretary with excellent ENGLISH and GERMAN. City, £5,500.

ITALIAN: Bilingual Secretary (both shorthand), wine trade, SW1, £5,000.

SPANISH: P.A. Secretary, Spanish mother tongue, with good English shorthand. City, £5,000 plus.

CONTINENT OF EUROPE: also have interesting opportunities for experienced bilingual secretaries in France, Italy and Germany.

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NEW YEAR CAREERS YOUNG SECS.

We are offering excellent career advice and introduction to London's leading companies in the following fields:

TRAVEL - FASHION - PERSONNEL

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£4,000 - £6,000

Call 637 9922

WETTERIDGE SURREY

Mature, experienced and confident P.A. Secretary required for a Vice-President of a major international company. The salary offered will be in proportion with the skills and experience. You can offer an extremely attractive benefits package. Please contact DOROTHY ALLISON.

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Handling Staff

10 New Bond Street, W.1

PERSONAL SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN, W.1

£5,000

International office dealing with a wide range of international clients. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department, including the promotion of the work of the department.

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PERSONAL SECRETARY

TO GROUP MARKETING DIRECTOR

£4,900-£5,090 p.a.

We are looking for an experienced Personal Secretary with a high standard of secretarial skills (short-hand and a good knowledge of the Group's business) and a demanding position with London Transport.

You will be working for our Group Marketing Director who is responsible for London Transport Marketing, Sales and Advertising policies.

You must enjoy meeting people and be capable of working under pressure. We will expect you to exercise your own initiative in many instances, coping with the demands of this busy office. Working with an assistant, your duties will involve typing reports and correspondence, maintaining the diary, arranging meetings, preparing papers and being responsible for general office administration.

Among other benefits, we offer free travel on all London Transport services and generous reductions on British Rail.

For more information and an early interview date, please phone Ann Blackburn on 01-222 5500, ext. 64, or write to her. Staff Appointments, London Transport, 55 Broadway, Westminster, London SW1H 0BD, quoting ref. no. 853B.

LONDON TRANSPORT

Personnel Assistant

West London - c. £5,500

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Applicants should already be working at Director level and be used to dealing with difficult tasks.

If you feel you have the qualifications and the stamina for this position it should be very pleased to hear from you.

Needless to say, the salary for running this large building with its fringe benefits, including free lunches and BUPA membership, please ring or write giving full details, including current salary to Mrs. E. G. Smith, Personnel Manager, The Metropolitan Corporation Limited, Hammersmith House, London, W.6.

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Property Cottages get 'first home' role again

The small country cottage continues to attract a good deal of attention in the market, but not quite for the same reasons as a few years ago. The demand for homes for purely holiday or weekend use has been much tempered by inflation and rising motoring costs, although even now there is a hard core of buyers looking for property for these purposes.

Even so, much of the demand now comes from people looking for a permanent home on a lesser scale than they would have considered some years back.

This means that potential buyers pay more attention to what might be called the "liveability" of the property throughout the year, its distance from village shops and even bus routes.

The kind of remote property only really suitable for occasional use in summer is less popular than it used to be, and will probably remain so until the country's economy is once more flourishing.

Two East Anglian cottages very much in the local tradition and both in village locations are for sale through James Abbott, of Wickham Market, Suffolk.

One is called Hambleton, at Lower Ufford, about two miles from both Woodbridge and Wickham Market. It is of lath and plaster construction under a thatched roof, with a brick extension built about 15 years ago. The construction is such that a further bedroom could be added. Present accommodation in-

cludes a sitting room showing exposed stud work and beams, a dining room with a large window looking over the garden, a well-fitted kitchen, a study and a bathroom downstairs. Upstairs are three bedrooms. Outside, the whole property is about a quarter of an acre. The price is about £37,500.

The other property is Fir Tree Cottage, at Earl Soham, opposite the church. Here again construction is the traditional timber frame, lath and plaster, with a later extension, all pink colour washed and with a thatched roof. The sitting room is more than 20ft long and there is a good-sized dining room as well. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom. There are gardens both back and front and the property covers in all about one third of an acre. The price is £34,500. An unusual small cottage property in a town setting is one called The Salt Box, in



Cobrin, at Worplesdon, Surrey, modern architecture at about £175,000.

Church Street, Old Town, Bexhill-on-Sea, in East Sussex. It stands at the end of a terrace and is part weather-boarded and part tile hung. Thought to date from about 1732, it may have even earlier origins, and has a grade two listing as being of special architectural or historic interest.

Another unusual small property is Lower Lodge, at Williamscombe, near Banbury, in Oxfordshire, originally built, as the name implies, as the entrance lodge to Williamscombe House. There is a stone bearing the date 1839 on the building, which is constructed of local stone with a slate roof, designed in the Gothic style with pointed arches over doors and windows.

All the accommodation is on one floor and consists of a living room, two bedrooms and a kitchen and bathroom. The small garden has an area for fruit and vegetables. Offers in the region of £31,000 are being asked through Savills, of Banbury.

At the other end of the price scale is a fine modern property in Worplesdon, Surrey, adjacent to the golf course. Called Cobrin, in Bagshot Road, it was built in 1961 to designs by Scott, Brownrigg and Turner, the architects, and has been

featured in a number of newspapers and magazines, as well as being chosen to represent Surrey in Architectural Heritage Year in 1975.

In the main house there are a drawing room and a dining room, a large combined kitchen and breakfast room, and six bedrooms on the first floor, four with large picture windows, and sliding doors opening on to a vine-clad balcony.

In addition, there is a self-contained bungalow with a separate front entrance, which has a living room, two bedrooms and its own kitchen and bathroom.

The house stands in about three acres of landscaped gardens and grounds. It is being sold through Preston and Co. of Woking, Surrey, and is expected to make £175,000.

Another example of good modern building is a property called Little Hayes, in Lyngton, Hampshire. It

was built in 1969 in a corner of the grounds of South Hayes, a much larger house. It is close to the centre of the town, being only a little to the south of the High Street.

In spite of this, it stands in its own partly-walled and mature grounds which are completely private. The accommodation is notable for the unusually high ceilings in the main rooms. It includes a reception hall, a large drawing room, a dining room, and a bedroom wing with three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

There is a large attic which could be converted into extra rooms if required. A good point for a house in a town is that there is garaging for two cars. The garden extends in all to about one third of an acre and offers close to £150,000 are being sought through Jackson and Jackson, of Lymington.

Gerald Ely



Residential property



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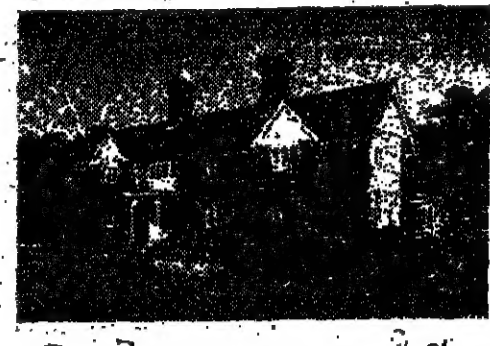
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